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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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CEC TO COUNT ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUNOFF RACE

CEC likely to certify Inos-Torres as winner today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the Commonwealth Election Commission counting tonight about 2,100 absentee ballots for the gubernatorial runoff race, it is likely to certify the result shortly thereafter showing the tandem of Republican standard-bearer Gov. Eloy S. Inos-Ralph DLG Torres as the winner over the independent Heinz Hofschneider-Ray N. Yumul team.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said yesterday that, barring any problems or legal issues, they will certify the election results shortly after the manual counting of absentee ballots.

"We're just waiting for the time now," Guerrero said when asked if CEC is prepared for today's counting.

He said the plan is to pick up the ballots from the U.S. Postal Service at 3:30pm or before 4pm today as required by law.

Guerrero said the ballots will then be transported to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, where the

See CEC on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ GOP confident IT will get lion's share of absentee votes. PAGE 6

Kilili divert airfield provision struck out in NDAA accord

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. House and Senate dropped this week a provision that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan had inserted in the National Defense Authorization Act regarding the location of a divert airfield in the CNMI. Sablan's provision would have allowed for a divert airfield to be placed at "any suitable location" in the Northern Marianas.

See KILILI on Page 4

WORK IN PROGRESS

Staff of the Governor's Office, Saipan Mayor's Office, and Department of Public Works start setting up the giant Christmas tree at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The lighting of the Christmas tree traditionally marks the beginning of the Yuletide season in the CNMI.

MARK RABAGO

San Nicolas: CEC shows a 99.86 accuracy percentage

» Dela Cruz counsel says whole election system is broken

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has exhibited a 99.863 accuracy percentage in conducting the Nov. 4 election for Tinian, according to Tinian mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

San Nicolas, through counsel Matthew T. Gregory and Viola Alepuyo, said yesterday that CEC should be commended for its meticulous application of the election laws that resulted in only two questionable

See SAN NICOLAS on Page 4

Saipan CPI numbers down in Q4 of 2013

» Tinian and Rota's up in same period

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The cost of consumer goods on Saipan went down during the fourth quarter of 2013, while those of Tinian and Rota went up, according to a Consumer Price Index report from the Department of Commerce released in October this year.

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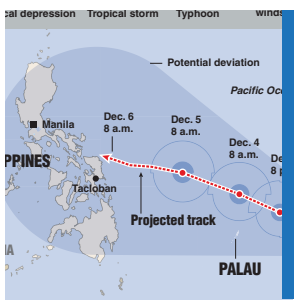
INSIDE



ASIA

Forecasters say Hagupit will likely slam into the same region hit by Haiyan.

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OFF THE WALL

More than 1,000 people set a new Guinness record for the largest live nativity scene.

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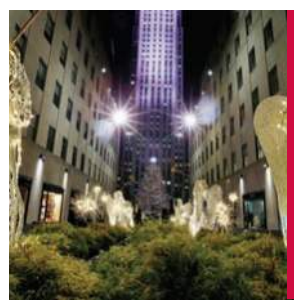

LIFE & STYLE

Thousands watch the lighting of the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center.

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$387K spending measure OK'd

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed a bill yesterday that appropriates $387,000 collected from poker licenses and fees for a myriad of uses.

Ayuda Network, whose members filled the House of Representatives chamber yesterday, was one of the agencies that will benefit from the appropriations bill that passed the delegation on first and final reading.

House Local Bill 18-64, D1 passed on a vote of 19 yes and two absences, as Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) was in a meeting and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) was off-island on official business.

» Farmers Co-op gets $60K
» Ayuda Network gets $18K

The delegation approved $18,000 for Ayuda Network, which the nonprofit will use for its personnel expenses.

Ayuda Network executive director Diane Camacho said they need about $25,000 more for other expenses, including repair of their office in Susupe. She said there is currently no power in their office after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. shut off electricity to their decrepit building because of sparks last week.

Nonetheless, Ayuda Network staff, members, and supporters applauded when HLB 18-64, D1 was passed.

One of the biggest appropriations under the bill is the $60,000 earmarked for the operations of the CNMI Farmer's Cooperative Association.

Under the bill, the expenditure authority for the money is the cooperative's president, former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan. Pangelinan herself is required to submit an expenditure of funds report to the delegation chairman 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.

The bill also gives $75,000 for the construction of Fitme Place road on Navy Hill, Saipan and for the inner road construction from the Garapan Fishing Base north to the Children's Park area by the Carolinian Affairs Office.

Another $32,000 was set aside for the Office of the Mayor of Saipan for field operations equipment under the expenditure authority of the mayor of Saipan.

"The mayor of Saipan shall submit an expenditure of funds report to the chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation 30 days after the end of the fiscal year," the bill states.

The delegation also earmarked $30,000 for the Public School System to procure school buses under the expenditure authority of the Education Commissioner. The commissioner is also required to submit an expenditure of funds report to the SNILD chairman 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.

The local delegation, chaired by Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), also appropriated monies to the following:

■ $34,000 for the repair and maintenance of the basketball court & social hall in Precinct II;

■ $34,000 to construct bus shelters and road bumps in Precinct V;

■ $34,000 to renovate the Health Center in Precinct IV;

■ $70,000.00 for various projects in Precinct 1

The SNILD went into recess a number of times to straighten out some details of the appropriations bill. The members finally agreed on revisions and passed the bill before noon.

The bill, which now goes to the desk of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, was certified by Tebuteb and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero.

Homeland Security's employee, boyfriend allegedly steal 4 TVs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An employee of the CNM Office of Homeland Security was arrested along with her boyfriend on Wednesday night for allegedly stealing four federally funded 42-inch LG flat screen TVs that were installed inside the Emergency Operation Center on Capital Hill.

Martina Castro, 33, and her boyfriend, Joseph Junior Olaitiman Borja, 34, were arrested in Oleai on charges of receiving stolen property.

Saipan Tribune learned that Castro is a radio dispatcher at Homeland Security but she stopped reporting for work after police recovered one of the stolen TVs early this week.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo retained the $10,000 cash bail the court earlier imposed on each defendants. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 11 at 9am.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched to the Homeland Security office on July 15, 2014, at 3:52pm after CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman reported that four TVs worth a total of $5,600 had been stolen from the Emergency Operation Center.

Pangelinan said she and another detective later met with Seman, who disclosed that while he was going through some of the surveillance footage, he noticed that whenever Castro was on duty every after midnight, the camera inside the operation room would be moved away from its main location. After 3am, the camera would be back to its normal place.

There was also footage showing that Castro would bring in her boyfriend, Borja, into the Emergency Operation Center after midnight, which is against policy.

There was also a footage and picture of Borja carrying what appears to be a TV on his back covered with a white blanket and walking out of the exit door of the Homeland Security building.

Pangelinan said that, on Tuesday, a male individual was arrested for theft of a flat screen TV.

Pangelinan said the victim in this case provided information that her TV is at the residence of Virginia Faisao in Kagman 3.

Pangelinan and another detective proceeded to the house of Faisao, who showed her a flat screen TV that she allegedly bought from Castro and Borja for $100. Faisao agreed to hand over the TV to police for investigation. The TV's serial number in the back had been scratched off but the model number was still intact.

Faisao said that Castro also sold her a Sony Vaio laptop but she pawned it to Villaroyal Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa.

Pangelinan said that she met again with Seman, who identified the TV as one of those stolen from Homeland Security. Seman was able to identify the TV because the bracket on the back of the TV was still attached and the other half of the bracket is still mounted on the wall inside the Emergency Operation Center.

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KILILI

From Page 1

Both Sablan and the CNMI government would prefer divert activities to be placed on the island of Tinian, where already two-thirds of land is leased to the U.S. military. The U.S. Air Force, however, has expressed a preference for Saipan as the site for expenditure of some $29 million in divert activity funds. The Commonwealth Ports Authority passed a resolution in August essentially saying "no" to a divert airfield on Saipan.

Sablan's provision was included in the House's version of the bill, but the Senate bill reported no similar provision. It was left out in their agreement this week. However, Congress, in their explanatory statement, welcomed changes if deemed necessary by the U.S. Air Force.

They noted that the Air Force is currently working on an environmental impact study in their aim to achieve divert capability in the Western Pacific.

They said, "If necessary, upon issuing a Record of Decision, we would welcome a legislative proposal from the Secretary of the Air Force to modify the scope or location for the project as currently authorized" by law.

Sablan's provision would have followed provisions last year that barred the expenditure of authorized funds until the Air Force reports to Congress alternatives and construction requirements for the divert airfield.

Last year's NDAA authorized $29.3 million for divert projects on the island of Saipan, the top alternative for divert activities in the CNMI, according to a DEIS published earlier.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for its part, declared the DEIS "insufficient," citing noise impacts on Saipan residents as severe. The agency felt this was inconsistent with directives requiring hearing loss risk to be properly estimated.

CPA echoed these concerns, among others, in its August resolution. Yesterday, CPA executive directory Maryann Lizama gave this statement on the recent NDAA development:

"CPA certainly appreciates Congress' prerogative to appropriate funds as it sees fit. The CNMI airports are already emergency divert facilities and so we believe the Air Force will review its priorities in future siting efforts, knowing CPA's interests and concerns."

CPA could not comment further as all details would have to be assessed first.

CEC

From Page 1

manual counting will be held.

Guerrero said they have to verify first if the ballots are postmarked on or before the Nov. 21 runoff; if it is not, the ballots are going to be rejected.

He said there are other things they have to check such as making sure that the ballots are not tampered with and have proper affidavits and ballot envelopes.

He conceded that they expect a lesser turnout from absentee ballots compared to the general elections.

"Based on what we've been hearing, that a lot of people did not get the absentee ballots from the post office, then we may get fewer," he said.

CEC mailed all the absentee ballots on Nov. 11.

Guerrero said he cannot respond to what happens in transit with the post office as they have no control over it.

"The law requires us to send the ballots out [via] first class mail," he said.

Guerrero hopes to start the counting at 6pm.

With a commanding 1,599 lead, Inos-Torres is a sure winner as it is statistically improbable for Hofschneider-Yumul to overtake such a big lead.

CEC already counted some of the absentee ballots in which Inos-Torres easily won, 323-121.

Regarding absentee ballots at the Nov. 4 general elections, the official CEC results show that Inos-Torres came strong with 1,186 votes, while Hofschneider-Yumul got only 649 out of the 2,280 total votes.

Inos-Torres garnered a total of 6,342 votes, while the Hofschneider-Yumul came second with a total of 4,501 during the Nov. 4 four-way gubernatorial elections.

Inos-Torres' 1,841 margin over Hofschneider-Yumul paved way for the second gubernatorial election in the CNMI last Nov. 21.

SAN NICOLAS

From Page 1

ballots (judge retention and rejected ballot).

Incumbent Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz actually received the exact same number of votes between the counting on election night and during the recount of ballots, said Gregory and Alepuyo in San Nicolas' motion to dismiss Dela Cruz's election contest.

As this developed, CEC, through Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty, also moved to dismiss Dela Cruz's complaint based on the results of the court-ordered recount of ballots.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja will hear the two motions to dismiss this morning, Friday, at the Saipan Superior Court.

In an interview, Gregory said both sides will have a chance to brief all the issues and argue.

"We're confident the judge will make the right decision," Gregory said.

In CEC's motion, Flaherty said Dela Cruz has failed to assert sufficient actual prejudice to make up the nine-vote gap that he currently faces.

"Even if all of the allegations remaining on [Dela Cruz's] complaint are true, the complaint only asserts that it could result in a net plus-three gain for contestant," Flaherty said.

Dela Cruz's counsel, Mark Hanson, stated in an interview yesterday that they finished on Wednesday what he considers the full recount of ballots on Tinian.

"They [CEC] basically did the ballot accountability, meaning they went try to account for every single Tinian ballot," Hanson said.

After all the accounting, there were four extra ballots, he said.

Hanson also noted that there were 58 ballots sent out that never came back. "Four of them got voted anyway without being recorded by CEC, meaning somebody came in and voted twice," he said.

Hanson said there is a procedure that CEC could have followed to prevent that but they didn't.

Hanson said CEC's and San Nicolas' argument now is that because the recount shows that San Nicolas won by nine votes and that they only know about four extra ballots, it's not enough to overcome the election.

"But our argument is that the whole system is broken. And the people of Tinian want to see a fair and honest election," he said.

Hanson said the people of Tinian don't think that this election is fair and honest, particularly the Tinian mayoral race.

Hanson noted that 53 and a half percent of Tinian voted for Dela Cruz in a three-way race.

"That's a lot! He lost because of the off-island votes. Forty-two percent of the votes was from off-island. Who are these off-island voters?" the lawyer asked.

In San Nicolas' motion to dismiss yesterday, Gregory and Alepuyo said the difference between the votes counted on election night and those counted during the recount is 3: 1 vote going to David Cing and 2 votes going to San Nicolas.

The increase of three ballots was due to manually added votes from the reconstructed ballots.

Reconstructed ballots refer to those ballots that were rejected by the tabulating machine because either all the markings on the ballot were too light or because the ballot was torn or mutilated.

At the counting during election day, San Nicolas edged Dela Cruz with only seven votes, 703-696. Cing obtained only 46 votes. CEC already certified this result.

At the recounting of votes on Monday, San Nicolas won by nine votes over Dela Cruz, 705-696. One vote was added to Cing, giving him a total of 47 votes.

Gregory and Alepuyo said during the course of the recount, all of Dela Cruz's allegations of "several irregularities" were proven false.

As Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has already dismissed Dela Cruz's claims based on voter qualifications, the remaining allegations of irregularities have likewise been shown to be untrue during the course of the recount, they said.

Gregory and Alepuyo said all ballots are accounted for so the mayor's allegations cannot have occurred.

"The absentee voting issue was resolved by the painstaking cross referencing of the absentee voter affidavits and voter log at the recount," according to San Nicolas' counsel.

On Wednesday, Naraja presided over the recount and reconciliation of the remaining ballots as well as the reconciliation of the voter registration ledger, early voting ledger, absentee request list, absentee voter request for ballot forms and the affidavits for absentee voters.

After CEC's inventory and reconciliation, it was determined that 1,951 ballots were ordered and 1,948 ballots were inventoried on Sept. 20, 2014.

There were 1,463 recount ballots; 423 unused ballots were counted and verified; 58 absentee ballots that were returned to CEC; five reconstructed ballots; four ballots that were "returned to sender" by the U.S. Postal Service; two ballots resent to absentee voters; and one rejected ballot. The total ballots were 1,956.

The 1,948 ballots inventoried and the total ballots of 1,956 result in a variance of eight ballots.

Gregory and Alepuyo said Dela Cruz may question whether the four absentee ballots that were "returned to sender" should be included in the 58 absentee ballots that were never returned to CEC for counting based on discussions with CEC staff.

In addition, they said, there is a question whether the absentee ballots never returned to CEC should include the three Saipan confined voters.

The lawyers said it does not matter if they were not included, because the variance between the actual ballots reconciled and the ballots ordered by CEC is eight.

"Therefore, even if the reconciliation is to be construed in Mr. Dela Cruz's favor, the eight variance is still not enough to make a difference in the election," they pointed out.

Furthermore, the lawyers said, there is no evidence, and none can be provided regarding who these individuals voted for a determination of actual prejudice.

Gregory and Alepuyo said Dela Cruz has no sufficient cause to contest the election because his concerns have been quelled by the recount performed on Dec. 1 and 3, and Naraja's ruling on San Nicolas' motion to dismiss.

They said Dela Cruz's allegations of irregularities are not sufficient to change the final result of the election.

In CEC's motion, Flaherty said the remaining causes asserted in Dela Cruz's complaint, now down by nine votes, are insufficient to allow the court to provide him the only remedy it is empowered to provide: "reversing the result of the election."

Flaherty said there is insufficient evidence produced at the recount and asserted by Dela Cruz in his complaint that irregularities or improper conduct in the election proceedings, if any occurred, are sufficient to rise to the level of actual prejudice against Dela Cruz.

Flaherty said any error committed by CEC in the conduct of the election, in and of itself, is improper grounds for the court to void this election result.

For Dela Cruz to be granted the available remedy of reversal of the election result, he must show actual prejudice insofar as any errors, irregularities, or misconduct by CEC resulted in San Nicolas being declared elected, he said.

Flaherty said the Dec. 3 session of the recount revealed that CEC made errors in the conduct of this election, yet many of these errors were resolved through the process engaged in that day before the court.

"However, simply because CEC made an error in the conduct of an election does not mean that actual prejudice occurred. As in all human endeavors, mistakes will occur during the conduct of an election," he added.

CPI

From Page 1

The Saipan CPI for the period of October and December 2013 decreased to 112.1 compared to the 112.4 recorded from July to September 2013.

This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100 during the 2008 base period cost $112.1 in the final three months of last year, which translates to a $12.1 increase.

Transportation recorded the most dramatic drop in cost as it went down from 127.3 in the third quarter of 2013 to 126.5 in the fourth quarter of the same year.

Housing and utilities and other good and services represented the second biggest drop for the quarter as both decreased by 0.2 percentage points. Housing and utilties dropped from 103.7 to 103.5, while other good and services decreased from 113.7 to 113.5 quarter to quarter.

Recreation, meanwhile, went down 0.1 percentage points from 103.1 to 103.

The prices for food (112), alcoholic beverages (116.6), apparel (94.3), medical care (128.3), and education and communication (94.5) remained steady from quarter to quarter.

Tinian, Rota CPI up

The Tinian CPI for the period of October and December 2013, meanwhile, inched a percentage point up from 114.8 in the third quarter of 2013 to 114.9 in the fourth quarter of the same year.

Education and communication increased by 0.4 percentage points from 100.6 to 101, while housing and utilities and food went up—from 125.4 to 125.7 to the former and from 103.7 to 103.8 for the latter.

The prices of alcoholic beverages (106.5), apparel (87.2), transportation (119), medical care (140.9), recreation (109.2), and other good and services (108.7) were the same from the thrid quarter of 2013 to the fourth of 2013.

CPI for Rota recorded the most dramatic increase Comonnwealth-wide in the fourth quarter of 2013 as it rose from 109.9 from July to September 2013 to 110.3 from October to December 2013.

The biggest culprit in the increase in the island's CPI is alcoholic beverages, which jumped 13.3 percentage points from 112.7 to 127.7.

Food had the second biggest increase in percentage points from 105.5 to 110.5, while other goods and services and apparel went up 0.5 (113.6-114.1) and 0.1 (92.6-92.7) percentage points, respectively.

Housing and utilities (110.3-109.7), transportation (120-117.4), and recreation (98.8-98.7) posted decreases from the third quarter to the fourth quarter of 2013.

Education and communication (78.7) and medical care (78.7) were unchanged from quarter to quarter.

The CNMI CPI is designed to measure changes in prices of commodities and services normally purchased by the community. Like the U.S. CPI, it is based on the concept of representative "market basket"—a sample of goods and services that the consumer purchases. The CPI was first developed during the early part of 1977, was initially rebased in 2003 before being rebased again in 2008.

Commerce's Central Statistics Division prepared the CPI report for the fourth quarter of 2013. It said while the previous CPI collected price data from 18 different outlets, the revised CPI expanded the outlet sample dramatically to roughly 170 different retail outlets on Saipan, 30 on Tinian, and 60 on Rota—all geographically dispersed.

CSD said this substantially larger outlet sample will ensure that the retail price data are collected from a wide variety of outlets dispersed through the three islands.

Measure introduced to stop carding of *man'amko* buying alcohol, cigarettes

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In an effort to finally put some common sense on a law that mandates the carding of anyone buying alcohol or cigarettes, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) have introduced a bill to repeal and reenact some provisions of Public Law 17-83.

PL 17-83 limits the sale of tobacco to persons over 18 years old and requires establishments to ask everyone—regardless of age—to present a government-issued identification card.

According to Senate Bill 18-73, the Legislature finds that "certain provisions of PL 11-75 and PL 17-83, requiring retail vendors of alcohol and tobacco products to demand the presentation of a valid identification card each time a person attempts to purchase any alcohol and tobacco products have had a growing adverse effect in the community."

The legislation also noted that the enforcement of the mandatory ID card requirement prior to selling any alcoholic beverage and tobacco products at retail establishments has resulted in numerous complaints, specifically from older adults and senior citizens.

"Many people have complained about the absurdity and impracticality of demanding the presentation of a valid ID card on regular or daily basis from the same patrons of legal age who are regular customers of retail establishment," the bill reads.

Instead of carding everyone, the bill offers an amendment that reads, "No person shall sell, give, serve or permit his/her agent to sell, give or serve any alcoholic beverage products to any person under 21 years of age. The licensee or his/her agent shall exercise prudent judgment and shall not transact any sale of alcoholic beverages without first demanding that a person who obviously appears to be below forty-five (45) years of age present an official unexpired government document of identification issued by the CNMI government, municipalities of the CNMI, the United States government, United States' states, United States territories, or by foreign governments which bears the person's full name, current photograph, and date of birth indicating that the possessor is twenty-one (21) years of age or older and that said presentation and verifications occurs."

The bill also stated that "the licensee or his/her agent may exercise prudent judgment and may not repeat the demand for presentation of a valid ID card from the same person whom the identification has been verified, and may document that the person is of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverage products in a ledger formatted to indicate the person's name, date of birth, type of valid ID card verified, date the ID is issued and the expiration, and the date the ID was verified."

The past couple of months, many have complained about retail establishments' strict application of the carding provision of PL 17-83. Senior citizens are some of the loudest critics, with a few of them losing their tempers as obvious grey-beards are carded by hapless store attendants.

Retail establishments, however, have no choice as the Division of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control have stepped up enforcement of the law, which fines stores up to $1,000 for not carding buyers.

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GOP confident IT will get lion's share of absentee votes

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The NMI Republican Party ticket of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres is confident of getting the lion's share of the votes when absentee ballots are finally counted today by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

CEC will retrieve the absentee ballots from the U.S. Postal Service today and count them to finally put a close to the Nov. 21 runoff where Inos/Torres was challenged by the independent pair of former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and former Senate floor leader Ralph N. Yumul.

"The Inos/Torres team wishes to express its heartfelt appreciation to our families, friends, and strong supporters residing outside the CNMI for their unconditional support during the general and runoff elections. Based on the 52 percent that the IT team received from the strong support from our absentee voters during the general election, we are confident the same level of support, to be counted today, will remain steadfast," said GOP media coordinator Ivan Blanco in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

While the GOP tandem is confident of victory in the runoff, Blanco nonetheless said the governor and Senate president are extending an olive branch to the camp of Hofschneider and Yumul.

"We look forward to the final count and certification of the ballots as well as working together with Mr. Hofschneider, Mr. Yumul, and their supporters to move our CNMI forward. We have much work ahead of us and together, through collaboration, communication, and cooperation we can achieve much, much more. This holiday season is not a time to turn against each other, but rather a time that we turn toward each other for peace, progress, and prosperity," added Blanco.

The NMI Republic Party tandem amassed a 1,599-vote lead against Hofschneider and Yumul during preliminary count last Nov. 21.

GOP campaign manager Jason Obsorne earlier said that Hofschneider/Yumul has to get 87 percent of the 2,300 or so absentee ballots sent out by CEC in order to overtake Inos/Torres' lead.

Tinian homesteads need funds for necessary infrastructure

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality has approved 20 permits for the West San Jose Homestead on Tinian, according to DEQ's David Rosario, but building on properties are not allowed until certain infrastructure are in place.

"What these people are doing is just cleaning around, staking out their property, planting vegetables," Rosario listed as activities permissible on site.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are no septic systems in place on the 100-plus lots issued by the Department of Public Lands.

According to Rosario, the homestead's major siting permit essentially says that "no houses can be built until electricity or water is there."

The homestead was discussed in a Division of Coastal Resource Management board meeting yesterday. It was learned that Tinian homesteaders have been "putting pressure" on the Tinian delegation to appropriate funding for the required roads, power, and water so building on the homesteads can begin.

Right now, homesteaders are left to mere cleaning their property and planning. It was discussed how the homesteads would be developed without any running water in place.

Drains and cesspools also cannot be built, it was learned, as part of permit conditions stipulated by the Department of Public Lands, which has already given cost breakdowns and estimates to the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

High court upholds Palacios' conviction for felony theft

The NMI Supreme Court has affirmed the trial court's sentencing of Roberto Jake Palacios' sentence for felony theft. He was charged with stealing items from an assistant attorney general in a courtroom. After agreeing to plead guilty, Palacios was sentenced to five years in prison.

On appeal, Palacios claimed his due-process rights were violated when the trial court sentenced him for felony theft because the plea agreement's facts section only supported a misdemeanor-theft sentence. Palacios also asserted that the trial court abused its discretion by imposing the maximum sentence because he presented numerous mitigating factors warranting less time in prison.

The Supreme Court began by addressing the factual-basis claim. There was no due-process violation because once a defendant pleads guilty to a crime there is not a constitutional requirement that the plea agreement provide facts adequately supporting the sentence. It is enough that the defendant pleaded guilty to the crime for which he was sentenced. Here, Palacios pleaded guilty to felony theft so the court could sentence him for that crime without violating his constitutional rights.

Next, the analysis turned to whether the trial court abused its discretion by imposing the maximum sentence. The trial court has nearly unfettered discretion in determining what sentence to impose. A sentence will be affirmed so long as a reasonable person could justify the sentence. Under this deferential standard, the high court concluded the trial court did not abuse its discretion. The sentence was reasonable because there were significant aggravating factors—such as the nature of the crime and Palacios' lengthy criminal history—that would warrant the maximum even in light of the mitigating factors Palacios presented.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court affirmed Palacios' sentence.

The Supreme Court's full opinion, 2014 MP 16, can be found at www.cnmilaw.org/supreme16.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

Lions to hold joint induction rites

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lions Club International 204 Region 2 will be holding a joint induction ceremony at Kanoa Resort today, Dec. 5, at 6pm.

According to United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, Senate President Ralph Torres will be their special guest.

LCI 204 Region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape said it will be a joint induction ceremony for both Saipan and Tinian Lions.

"This time Tinian will be coming and be in the induction. Rota was supposed to join the induction ceremony but could not make it because the flights were fully booked," Canape told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Canape said that whenever the Lions Club gets together, problems get smaller and the communities get better.

"That's because we help where help is needed in our own communities and around the world with unmatched integrity and energy," she said.

There are 46,000 Lions Clubs worldwide and 1.35 million members, making it the largest service club organization.

Canape said there are five Lions Clubs in the CNMI: Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club, and Rota Marianas Lions Club.

Canape noted that the CNMI's Lions Club have already lined up a few projects for the upcoming year. These include community and environment programs such as cleanups, planting trees, and health fairs.

OLEAI WINNER

Oleai Elementary School would like to congratulate Jhanilyn Cruz for her fifth place win in the NJSDA Lincoln-Douglas Debate in November. ***(PR)***

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Donations pour in for Operation Homefront Support

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC, Docomo Pacific, I Love Saipan, and the Marianas Visitors Authority recently donated cash and in-kind items to Operation Homefront Support, which is putting together care packages that would be sent to CNMI servicemembers who are currently deployed off island.

Bridge Capital and Docomo Pacific each donated $1,000 cash that will be used to buy postage stamps for the care packages. AC Pacific LLC, which operates the I Love Saipan store, donated I Love Saipan T-shirts, while MVA donated 300 Saipan maps.

All four groups made their donations on Dec. 3.

"The donations so far have been coming so we should be receiving our last tomorrow. We will still be receiving donations today, Friday," said Operation Homefront Support organizer Nola Hix.

The care packages will be put together on Dec. 6 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 8am to 10am.

Those interested in donating to the Operation Homefront Support may call Hix at 989-6552 or email her at nola.hix@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bridge Capital donates $1,000 for care package postage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Docomo Pacific donates $1,000 for care package postage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MVA donates 300 Saipan maps to the Operation Homefront Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
I Love Saipan donates I LOVE SAIPAN T-shirts.

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Hotel interns complete NMC's English language program

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently recognized 16 individuals who completed 24 hours of training in the English Language Development Program.

The 16 individuals of the program are international staff members from Japan, South Korea, and Russia who are working as interns at the Saipan World Resort.

In the program, the participants learned the fundamentals of the English language, including grammatical concepts necessary for interactive skills development. Throughout the course, students practiced these concepts through various conversation and written exercises.

The interns completed the course in order to be more well-rounded hospitality employees. The training helps to ensure that they are able to effectively serve English-speaking hotel customers.

"The ELDC program helps our non-English speaking students to effectively communicate with the customers they serve, thus increasing customer service as well as staff productivity and self-confidence in the workplace," said acting CDI director Floyd Masga.

The Community Development Institute provides a range of specialized academic courses, non-traditional courses, customized training such as workforce development and computer literacy courses, outreach and extended program services, personal enrichment, and community-based learning.

For more information about these courses, contact CDI at 237- 6810 or email CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

TakeCare Foundation to present grants to Guma'Esperansa, anti-violence coalition

TakeCare Foundation will present grants to Guma' Esperansa and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence today, December 5, 2014, at 3pm at the FHP Health Center on Saipan.

"Our foundation will be donating $3,000 to Guma' Esperansa to assist with their outreach initiatives to provide care and services to victims of violence and their children, and $5,000 to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence to help fund their one-day community event that will focus on raising awareness about sexual assault prevention and intervention," said Sylvia Duenas, TakeCare Foundation adviser.

Guma' Esperansa, a program of Karidat Social Services, is a shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and human trafficking in the CNMI. The non-profit organization works daily to provide care and services to victims of violence and their children who have fled their homes to seek safe shelter.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, nourish and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI.

The TakeCare Foundation is comprised of employees of TakeCare Insurance and the FHP Health Center who are devoted to charitable and educational causes that enhance the health, wellness and welfare of individuals, families and the public at large. It is unique because it is employee-driven. TakeCare and FHP employees play a major role in assisting with the contributions and the selection process of the grant recipients.

The TakeCare Foundation grant presentations occur in two cycles, in June and December. Visit http://www.takecareasia.com/corporate_foundation.php for more information. ***(FHP)***

House adopts resolution honoring NMIFA

The House of Representatives passed a resolution last week to recognize the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association for being the sole governing body of the sport in the CNMI and for its achievements and contributions to the islands.

All House members present during the Nov. 25 session adopted Rep. Edward Villagomez's (Ind-Saipan) House Resolution 18-64.

It stated that NMIFA was formed in 2005 and a "little over two years of its existence, NMIFA established a youth league, a women's league, a men's league, and in conjunction with the leagues, has held various players clinics for different age groups and conducted seminars and training for referees and officials."

HR 18-64 said the association started with about 100 active players, including youth players ranging in age from 4 to 15. Since then, players under NMIFA's umbrella have grown to about 1,200.

NMIFA was admitted to the East Asian Football Federation as an associate member in 2007 and received full membership from the EAFF in September 2008.

NMIFA was also admitted as an associate member of the Asian Football Confederation in July 2009.

In an effort to develop its players, the association sent the first CNMI U14 National Team to Beijing, China for the East Asian Football Association Youth Festival in 2006; the first Women's National Team to compete in Taipei for the EAFF Semifinals in 2009; and the first Men's National Team to compete in Guam for the 2010 East Asian Cup in 2009.

"NMIFA has continuously provided trainings for development and improvement of the Commonwealth's national football teams, and has been actively participating in tournaments, clinics, and workshops sanctioned by EAFF and AFC," the resolution reads.

HR 18-64 also listed historic wins by national teams organized by NMIFA. They include:

- U15 boys national team against Macau in the 20122 EAFF U15 Tournament (Taipei, July 2011)
- U14 boys national team against Guam in the AFC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers (Beijing, China, April 2013)
- U12 national team against Guam in the 2013 Marianas Cup (Saipan, December 2013)
- Men's national team against Macau in the EAFF East Asian Cup 2015 Preliminary Competition (Guam, July 2014)
- Women's national team against Macau in the EAFF Women's East Asian Cup 2015 Preliminary Competition (Guam, July 2014)

"Since its inception, NMIFA has successfully ushered the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the growth and development of the most popular sport in the world," the resolution reads.

It further added that NMIFA "is committed to nurturing the growing football movement, and dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle, teamwork, discipline, professionalism, sportsmanship, and fair play." ***(Mark Rabago)***

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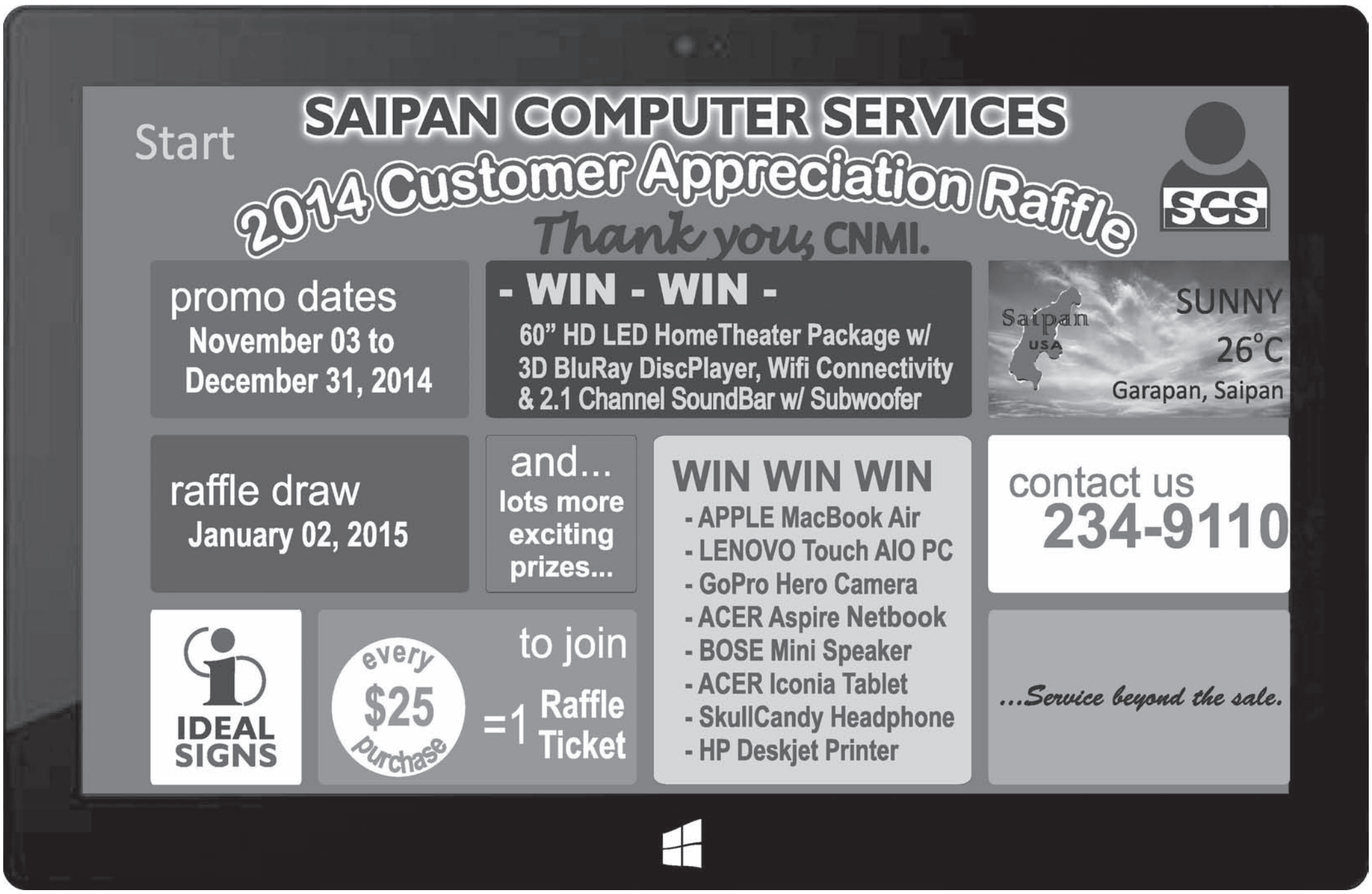

Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Obama daughters not the only ones bored by the turkey pardon

When Malia and Sasha Obama got dragged to a White House ceremony to watch their father pardon a turkey, it probably didn't occur to them or anyone else that the event would make news or have noticeable repercussions. They were probably just annoyed at having to endure this silly ritual in front of TV cameras and a group of guests.

Annoyed or not, their appearance and demeanor sparked the ire of one Facebook poster, who caustically exhorted the girls to "try showing a little class. Rise to the occasion. Act like being in the White House matters to you. Dress like you deserve respect, not a spot at the bar."

Those words were awfully harsh for two girls of 16 and 13, who were wearing normal adolescent fashions and did nothing remarkable, much less scandalous. There was a little eye-rolling, and when Dad offered the chance to pet the fortunate fowl, Malia quickly replied, "Nah," but that was all.

The comments would have passed unnoticed except that the author, Elizabeth Lauten, was communications director for Rep. Stephen Lee Fincher, R-Tenn. Promptly engulfed in a tidal wave of criticism, she soon apologized. "I quickly judged the two young ladies in a way that I would never have wanted to be judged myself as a teenager," she wrote, acknowledging "how hurtful my words were."

Too late. On Monday, faced with continuing denunciations, Lauten resigned her job. The nice thing about social media is the ability to communicate your thoughts the instant you think them. The bad thing is that rapid transmission eliminates the obligation to take time to consider whether those thoughts may blow up in your face.

Going after a politician's kids is always a questionable choice. And when a communications director embroils herself in a controversy that hurts her boss, she shouldn't expect to be working for him very long.

Besides, the daughters were hardly out of line. In looking bored with the proceeding and unamused by Dad's one-liners, in fact, Malia and Sasha represented us all.

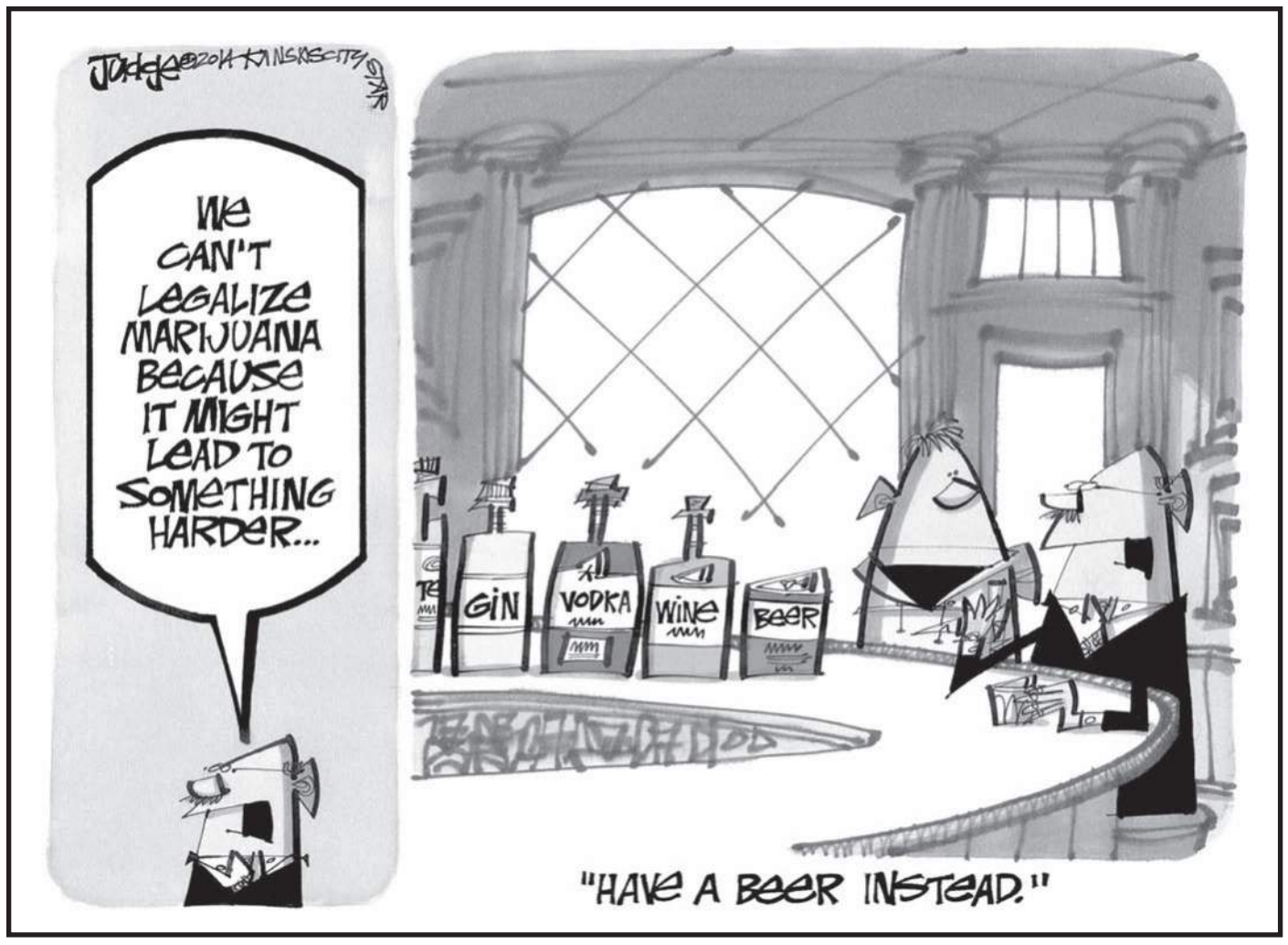
The annual turkey pardon is tedious, numbingly predictable and weighed down by strained attempts at humor. Their glum expressions were an understandable human reaction. Human? Heck, the turkeys are probably bored with the whole business by now.

Watch the ceremony once, watch it again, and then feel your sympathy for the girls grow. They have had to participate not once, not twice, but six times. As for petting the bird, they did that the very first year. When you've petted one turkey...

The ceremony started out as a nice break from the seriousness of presidential responsibilities but has become about as enticing as leftover green bean casserole. Next year, maybe Obama should spare his kids the job of feigning interest.

Even better, he could spare us all. Pardon the birds? Fine. But we're guessing that if the pardons came in written form, the turkeys wouldn't turn them down.

(c)2014 *Chicago Tribune*



Godless are among us, even in the heartland

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register*. Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

Rory Moe appeared on Simon Conway's conservative AM talk radio show recently to explain the "Godless? So are we!" billboards recently put up by the Des Moines, Iowa chapter of United Coalition of Reason, for people without a religion. But there was such a painful disconnect between radio host and guest, it was as if they were speaking different languages and someone forgot to hire an interpreter.

That may be an indication of the ongoing stigma of having no religious affiliation, even though the Pew Research Center estimates one in five Americans (one in three under 30) do not. They range from secular to agnostic to atheist, from college-age to 70s.

"Why would you spend money to do this?" asked Conway, whose profile describes him as a proud U.S. citizen who sees the U.S. Constitution being defied and rejects the "socialist" bent of his native United Kingdom. "I don't understand."

Moe 57, who heads the coalition's Des Moines chapter, struggled to explain that it's to let others of similar outlook know of each other's existence and to educate the public.

"I have felt very isolated most of my life because I could not find a group of like-minded people," he told Conway. In fact, it wasn't until the arrival of the Internet that nonbelievers could easily find one another, he told me later. There was no equivalent of a church meeting place for them. He likened it to being in the closet as a gay person.

But Conway pushed back. "What activist atheists are doing is forming a religion to shut down everybody else's belief," he insisted. Though he is Jewish, Conway stressed that America is predominantly Christian.

Granted, it is. But that doesn't mean people in the minority shouldn't be free to worship, or not to, or to advertise that they do not. And it certainly doesn't mean the majority religion should be forced into public policy.

"The First Amendment so clearly states that government can create no official state religion," said Moe. Yet many states have laws that misguidedly defer to religious beliefs. One is Iowa's child endangerment law. It protects parents from being prosecuted if they withheld food or medical intervention from their children for religious reasons—even if children died as a result.

Rita Swan of Sioux City has unsuccessfully lobbied Iowa legislators to remove that exemption. In 1977, her own son died at 15 months from spinal meningitis because their Christian Science church in Detroit had decreed that only religious practitioners could treat him. Swan and her husband left the church and formed Children's Health Care is a Legal Duty (www.childrenshealthcare.org) and have worked to toughen state laws on withholding care.

Then there's public education. Last year, as part of an educational reform bill to improve Iowa schools, the Legislature removed regulations requiring parents who home-school their children to submit their instruction plans to their school districts, and be supervised by a teacher, or participate in annual progress assessments. There are now no required progress measures.

Everyone should be free to worship—or not—as they please. But a state has a legitimate interest in the education and wellbeing of children who can't protect their own interests.

The Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation tracks complaints from the states involving the inappropriate entanglement of religion in government. When religion and politics are improperly mixed in Iowa, it can have national repercussions. Iowa is the first state to vet presidential candidates, by holding the first presidential caucuses in the nation. And the Iowa Republican Party's evangelical Christian bent has candidates vying to stress their Christian beliefs. Even Democrats feel they need to "wear their religion on their sleeve," observes Moe.

After the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage in 2009, the Iowa Family Leader, a Christian-based nonprofit organization, successfully campaigned to have three of the justices unseated in judicial retention votes. That's though the marriage law pertains to civil and not religious rights, and the ruling interpreting the state's constitution was unanimous.

Sure, the Godless ads are in your face, but the nonreligious are poking fun at themselves in trying to capture attention. Though billboard companies in several Iowa cities rejected them, Moe said public response has been overwhelmingly supportive.

"People are starting to realize we are your family members, your coworkers, your neighbors, your friends and not sinister, communist devil-worshippers," he said.

What is so offensive about someone choosing no religion? "Atheists do not attack anyone because of their faith," Moe insisted. Surely we have room as a society to accommodate both the faithful and the nonfaithful, to be able to work together toward broader societal goals without trying to force our orientations on others. It's that ability to live and let live that makes some of us proud to be American.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I'm the operator with my pocket calculator

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

In what's become a yearly event, the financial news is buzzing with news from the juncture of consumerism, high-tech products, and holiday shopping. When I flipped on the radio this morning it was covering sales figures for TVs, iPads, and smartphones.

Well, sorry to disappoint the retail analysts out there, but last week I scooped up the coolest tech item on the market. I got it at a junk store for $4. It's the TI-30 scientific calculator.

This is more than a mere machine. And this is higher than high-tech. This, folks, is pure magic.

The TI-30 is the Mother of All Calculators. No, it wasn't the first electronic calculator, just as Ford's Model T wasn't the first car. But, just as the Model T changed everything when it hit the streets, so did the TI-30.

The TI-30 came out in 1976. It was affordable (about $25 back then), easy to use, and it put serious calculating power in the hands of normal folks. It pulled us out of the horse-and-buggy days of numbers.

It is said that the TI-30 was the best-selling calculator of all times. I'm not interested in auditing the claim, so I'm happy to take it at face value.

Anyway, when I emerged from the junk store with my $4 treasure, complete with its retro faux-denim plastic carrying case (with belt loop), my pals thought I had a terminal case of nerdiness. OK, maybe I shouldn't have worn it on my belt in public.

Well, no, I should have, and I'm glad I did, since I wasn't a nerd for long. I was the proud owner of a genuine conversation piece. After our junk store foray we visited some friends who run a high-brow jewelry store. The TI-30 proved to be a more compelling bauble than the diamonds and emeralds. The warm red glow of the 8-digit LED display stirs up memories just like a favorite old song does.

The "TI," incidentally, stands for Texas Instruments, a company ultimately rooted in the oil industry and credited, among other things, with inventing the integrated circuit in 1958.

Owning a TI-30 was a badge of honor in high school. It enabled students to focus on learning mathematical principles instead of getting bogged down grinding out calculations or looking things up in tables. The parenthesis and the inverse (1/x) keys made for a smooth computational proposition, and what a blessing that was, since, up until that point, the calculators I encountered were merely glorified adding machines.

Alas, as great as the TI-30 was, by the time I hit college everything had changed. A new generation of calculators swept aside the prior generation just as New Wave music was burying disco. That wasn't just an American thing, and, as if to emphasize the gig, German techno-group Kraftwerk came out with the song "I'm the operator with my pocket calculator," a true anthem for nerds.

You're probably familiar with Hewlett-Packard printers, but back in the day HP was probably best known for its calculators. Meanwhile, Sharp, a Japanese company, came out with some real dandies, and even Radio Shack had a leading-edge programmable calculator.

The popularity of various calculators probably varied by region back then. In college we'd buy what the professors told us to buy, since methods to solve problems were often based on using a certain type of calculator. Likewise, later on in the work force, in finance circles you could fail a job interview if you couldn't demonstrate mastery of an HP calculator.

Everybody is all gaga about computers these days, and, yes, they sure do great things, but I think they've been a two-edged sword. Long ago, the U.S. came down with a case of spreadsheetitis, and you couldn't go out for a cup of coffee without some bore tugging on your sleeve to show you his 800-year financial projections complete with color graphs, 17 different fonts, and five pages of boilerplate accounting ratios. Indeed, for all the prohibitions on worshiping false gods, people sure seem to worship false numbers with doom-struck reverence. On that note you can point the blame where you see fit, but I'll note that wherever you wag your finger, calculators aren't the culprit.

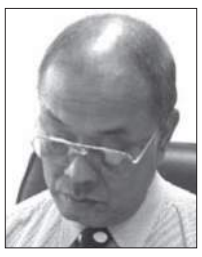
Far from being the culprit, the humble calculator is still the hero in my book. For example, I'm more inclined to amortize a mortgage using a calculator than a computer. Using the calculator is faster. Furthermore, and we're getting to some true nitty-gritty here, it's a good practice to spot check spreadsheet calculations using a calculator. After all, if you can't poke through the calculations like that, then you probably don't understand them, and that's where the trouble starts.

Well, we've covered a lot of ground for a $4 junk store purchase. The TI-30 is a door to the past because in the past it was a door to the future. You can't say that about many things. And even if you could, how many of them can you wear on your belt?

Self-inflicted slavery

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The word slavery has various shades of meaning depending upon how it is used. One meaning is the "condition of being subject to some influence…"

In this instance, I'd like to use it as a metaphor describing how we've ignored things that matter. Slavery is the monstrosity that emerged from this loose behavior. We are the slaves!

Technically, we don't have slavery here or anything similar to what we've learned in U.S. History. Ours is somewhat different but no less insistently troubling.

It's ignorance and greed. A bold view but not quite ready for immersion with sanctimonious diplomacy or call it political niceties.

We habitually ignore things that matter. Or we simply avoid honest and candid discussions with the view to understanding clearly what's at issue. We're in self-denial, slamming the door of open debate to what admittedly are difficult and unpopular issues. This is exacerbated by the loss of our spiritual anchor. We've simply ignored consistent pursuit of the truth. Out the window goes direction and purpose, royally failing attaining success.

In the context explained herein, slavery is just as horribly and powerfully destructive force against innocent indigenous people whose decision was swayed from within. Coupled with moneyed casino peddlers (when most folks have been forced into subterranean poverty level) must be a grand design to tiptoe casino and accompanying collateral issues through the garden of silence.

I've heard passionate advocacy for "Our Way" under the guidance of time-honored tradition while simultaneously trashing the very essence of its preservation. It's grand hypocrisy rolled into one. We double it up turning ultra-passive, placid and observers of our own instant ignorance, convinced that heading toward the cliff is the right direction. It's what suits instant gratification that rules the day! Clever but incorrigible pundits have pushed the multitude against a brighter future. Conscientious effort to guide the multitude simply disappeared in thin air.

As we waltz with ignorance and greed thoughtful vision fades into history. Perhaps it's time to escape from the ridiculous echo of the budding phenomena. Other important issues have started sprouting. But I'd leave that to evil geniuses to dispose.

As slaves of ignorance and greed, we still vote in midterm and general elections. At least we vote! As op-ed writer Jose Ma. Montelibano of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* recently pointed out: "That alone (voting) should qualify them to be deemed free, but it has not, it does not. Freedom is not about voting, it is about choices, various, accessible choices.

"Choices have to be a reality to the majority. And I speak here of the most fundamental, even elemental, of choices, like dignity, security, shelter, food, and mobility. Voting is not an adequate substitute for all these human needs. And voting by those greatly in need will go the way toward the satisfaction of those needs before anything else." Yes, money, ignorance and greed were rolled into a new layer of subculture. Sad.

Immigration is federal law

The NMI needs large numbers of foreign workers to build the casino project. It involves dealing with federal immigration law requirement, warned Delegate Kilili recently.

Was this aspect—now federal purview—thoroughly reviewed or was it disposed of in the comforts of grand mañana? This issue would entail lots of square dancing provided we have a sense of beat to follow the music. Immigration is federal law!

Wasn't the NMI mandated to end employment of foreign workers over the next five years? It isn't necessarily positive law for developmental purpose. Obviously, it's an issue that requires lots of work on the other side of the Pacific.

Next is infrastructure deficit or lack thereof for the casino project and need for public land. Now do you see my point about lack of due diligence? Any planned development requires the emplacement of basic infrastructure in advance. We're talking water, power, sewer and roads. And we're also talking millions of dollars for this purpose. Lest real plans are in place on this score, it's all second-guessing and reliant upon how soon we meet our end of the bargain. Am I making sense?

Loss of mooring

The slow though steady loss of our ways is fast tracked by the simultaneous fade of our spiritual anchor or mooring. The NMI community was founded upon a religious culture. It strengthens our sense of humanity in upholding what's right. We seem to have distanced ourselves from it. Does it matter to us anymore?

The silent acquiescence to steadily do away with the time-honored cultural traditions of these isles has begun. By the time the boat is halfway downstream it would be too late shifting to head the other way.

More folks would have adopted loose attitude in most everything they do. Familial unity slips into disunity and the idea of holding unto strong indigenous Christian values head out the front door.

As the spirit of the indigenous people is viciously challenged and drained our children are left to eventually yearn for something hugely missing that was once a part of them. It takes vision and leadership to engage serious work regrouping our people to reset indigenous buttons.

Troubling eerie silence

After the dust of the recent gubernatorial runoff settles, there's a distant eerie silence chiming repeatedly with bad omen. I can't place my finger on the two-headed beastly monster. But it insistently crashes upon our shores searching for some strange prey.

It would eventually show up in our backyards bringing gifts of sadness, joy and humiliation. It's an interesting development in our long and confused journey in a democracy. Perhaps the usual discordancy has as its scaffold grand mañana convinced everything is cool. Is it really?

Unless issues are explained in forthright fashion, the green bag speaks volumes overtaking conscience. Incorrigible pundits have the upper hand especially a day before the runoff. This political chicanery is set to sail into the sunset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'We was robbed'

In a boxing match on June 21, 1932, Joe Jacob's fighter was declared the loser of the fight. As soon as Joe Jacob, a professional prize fight manager, heard the ring announcer declare that his fighter had not been awarded the decision, he went to the middle of the ring and grabbed the ring announcer's microphone and shouted, "We was robbed." Shouting this very awkward statement made him the darling of linguistic immortality as such saying may be grammatically wrong as the statement may not qualify as a sentence, but it fits the artistic use of language not common in ordinary discourse.

This brings our attention to the recount of the ballots of the Tinian mayoral election. If the Dela Cruz side did not prevail, as it were, they would probably say, "We was robbed." This statement is a wonderfully effective complaint. But if the San Nicolas faction is declared the winner of the ballot recount, they would joyfully shout out, "We was right" as it should be. This says that facts are the only truth even when one doubts the outcome.

Statements like these are called "enallage" and are used abundantly in Shakespeare's plays, in the Bible, and represents the art of language followed and practiced by skillful and thoughtful writers. So, our politicians may urge by saying, "am telling to you" which conveys the drift of let me declare what you have to say because I make good representation of what is needed and desirable. Or, something like that, "me knows."

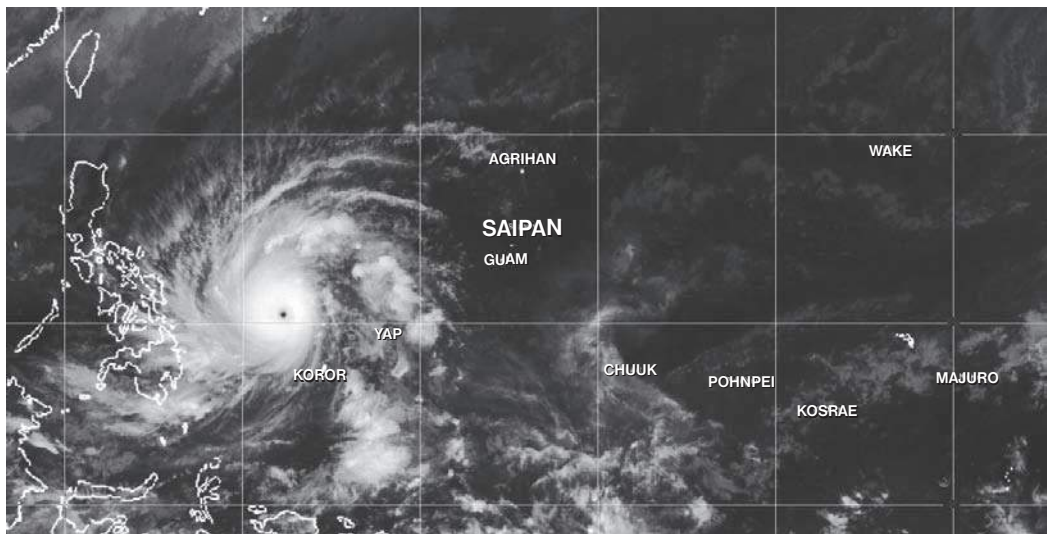
Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89º ▼76º	▲88º ▼77º	▲87º ▼76º	▲85º ▼79º	▲89º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Hagupit (22W) is centered 140 miles west-southwest of Yap and 165 miles northeast of Koror at 9N136E moving west-northwest at 21 mph with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph. Heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms are present within 115 miles of the center including Yap waters. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther southwest and northwest of the center within 65 miles of a line from 7N134E to 9N133E to 12N135 including Koror. For more information see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM.Converging trade winds northeast of Typhoon Hagupit are causing isolated thunderstorms west and southwest of Guam within 90 miles of a line from 10N145E to 14N137E. Converging south winds feeding into Hagupit are creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Yap between 3N and 8N from 138E to 144E. A near-equatorial trough runs northeastward from southeast of Chuuk at EQ155E to a weak circulation centered northeast of Majuro near 10N173E then continues eastward to beyond 180 at 9N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near these features over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands but south of Pohnpei within 175 miles of a line from EQ151E to 10N175E. A surface trough reaches northeastward from the circulation north of Majuro through another circulation centered southwest of Midway at 23N177E to beyond 25N at 179E. Two upper-level lows are also centered in the vicinity at 17N176E and 24N179E. Interaction between These systems is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of a line from 10N176E to 25N178E. A shear line extends southwestward from northwest of Minami Tori Shima through 25N147E to end at 19N130E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are evident along and up to 120 miles northwest of this Boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲83	▼81
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲38	▼19
Hong Kong	Showers	▲59	▼58
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲42	▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼73
Melbourne	Showers	▲72	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼34
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲39	▼37
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼27
Rome	Rain	▲61	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲63	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲29	▼18
Tokyo	Showers	▲51	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼37

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	-0.3 Feet
7:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:49 PM	4:58 PM
Saturday	5:40 PM	5:54 AM
Sunday	6:32 PM	6:48A M
Monday	7:24 PM	7:40 AM
Tuesday	8:15 PM	8:30 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

How to make mistletoe

The class is making Mistletoe Christmas ornaments to sell at Brilliant Star School's annual Holiday Bazaar to be held on Dec. 7 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, from 9am to 4pm.

The annual event showcases the arts of local artists and wares of other vendors, and allows island residents and visitors to buy unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays.

Throughout the day entertainment will be provided by a variety of local performers.

Parents who want to have a little personal shopping time can drop their child off in the arts and crafts area, where the children have their pick of a variety of art projects.

Shoppers have a chance to win items such as beautiful handmade jewelry, local artwork, and gift certificates from local restaurants in the hourly raffle drawings.

"It is my favorite event to organize [and] I look forward to this event all year," said Richard Sikkel, principal of Brilliant Start School. "This event gets us all in the holiday spirit." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STEP 1: Paint the foot. Jacqueline Fong, a parent of two Brilliant Star School students, applies paint to the bottom of student Avalon Fryling's foot in order to make a print.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STEP 2: Make an impression. Addison Pauling, a student in Mei Demapan's class at Brilliant Star School, places her painted feet on paper to make an impression of the Mistle-"toe." Susan Book Baetge helps keep her legs steady.

STEP 3: Mistletoes!

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 8th birthday to Aiyana Jade! May the Lord continue to bless you and bring you happiness today and always! We love you infinity x infinity! Love, Mom, Dad, Tristan, Melody, Grandma, and Ansa.

Junior mock trial workshop for teachers today

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting a Junior Mock Trial workshop today, Dec. 5, at the Guma Hustisia at 3:30pm.

"The goal of the workshop is to provide new teacher-coaches with the basics of the junior high mock trial program, including advice on opening and closing remarks, direct and cross examinations, and introducing evidence," Humanities Council program officer Eulalia Villagomez said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who has also been a longtime advocate and has served as the program's mock trial judge since 2005, will facilitate the workshop.

Villagomez said that it is open to all middle school and junior high school teacher-coaches and is being offered free of charge.

"This year's program will culminate in a series of mock trials held at the Guma Hustisia in April 2015," she said.

Registration forms are available on the council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Those wishing to learn more about the Junior High Mock Trial program may call the Humanities Council at 235-4785. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Interior OKs $1.3M for new school building in A. Samoa

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina recently approved $1,260,000 million in grant assistance to the American Samoa government through the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project Program. The grant will be used to fund a new two-story classroom building in the village of Utulei at the Samoana High School, one of the territory's six public high schools.

"This project will replace a building that had been condemned and deemed unsafe for students at the Samoana High School in American Samoa," said Kia'aina. "It is operating at full capacity and it is critically important that these students have a safe environment for learning and education. We are pleased to support the students of American Samoa in this way."

The Assistant Secretary, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(DOI)***

Human remains recovered

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam –As a result of an ongoing search for Airman Alec Dye, unidentified human remains were recovered around 2am by an Andersen Security Forces patrol in the same general vicinity of where Dye was last reported missing from Tarague Beach. First responders are on the scene and recovery and identification operations are ongoing. More information will be released as it becomes available. ***(AAFB)***

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Frontier PRO4X	EN747027	Red	$4,000.00
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Maxima SV Sport	EC457171	Mocha	$4,000.00
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Civic LX	EE046655	Maroon	$2,500.00
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~~Accord LX~~	~~EA26617~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Accord EX~~	~~EA18773~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V LX~~	~~EL02629~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$3,000.00~~
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Changing of the guard at 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO—Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will convene in a special session this week to mark the elevation of new Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of Billings, Montana.

Thomas, who officially assumed his new duties on Dec. 1, 2014, succeeds former Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of Pasadena, California, who had held the office since 2007.

A ceremonial passing of the gavel to mark the change in court leadership will be held today, Dec. 5, 2014, at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco. For reasons of space and security, attendance at the event is by invitation. However, the ceremony will be video streamed live for viewing via the Internet, beginning about 4pm Pacific Standard Time.

For more information on event streaming, see the court website, www.ca9.uscourts.gov.

By law, selection of the chief judge of a federal circuit or district court is based on seniority and age. The most senior active judge under the age of 65 is eligible to serve as chief judge for a term of up to seven years.

As chief judge, Thomas, 61, assumes a variety of administrative responsibilities. In addition to hearing cases, he will chair two judicial policy-making bodies, the Executive Committee of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, and represent the Ninth Circuit at biannual meetings of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the judiciary's national governing body. The chief judge also presides when an 11-judge en banc court is convened to resolve cases posing intra-circuit legal conflicts or to consider other matters deemed to be of exceptional importance.

A native of Bozeman, Montana, Thomas received his B.A. from Montana State University in 1975 and his J.D. from the University of Montana School of Law, graduating with honors in 1978. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he had been in private practice in Billings from 1978 to 1995. He also was as an adjunct instructor of law at Rocky Mountain College in Billings from 1982 to 1995.

Thomas is married to attorney Martha Sheehy, a former president of the State Bar of Montana, who practices law in Billings. They have two children.

Kozinski steps down after a successful seven-year term in which the court greatly expanded the use of technology to improve operations and make the judicial process more accessible to the public. Among many noteworthy advances during his tenure, the court completed its migration to electronic case filing with more than 70,000 attorneys currently registered to use the system, and expanded the use of cameras in the courtroom, becoming the first and currently only federal appellate court to live video stream oral arguments on the Internet.

The Ninth Circuit encompasses Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

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Public school students prepare to enter hospitality sector

The Latte Training Academy and the CNMI Public School System recently conferred its American Hotel & Lodging Education Institute certificates to 75 students of Kagman High School, Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School.

The program's second cohort of students began training at the beginning of the school year and have entered into the job-shadowing part of the program. This section allows students to gain a better sense of real-world application of the course content and immerse themselves in the various aspects of hotel operations. Local hotels that participated in the training program include the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Lao Lao Bay Resort, Mango Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club, and the Saipan World Resort.

The feedback from participating hotels has been overwhelmingly positive. PIC Restaurant manager Henry Worswick said, "It is a good program because it gives the students a general idea of the different departments and how each department operates within the hotel. The program shows the students the different types of the jobs within a hotel and if it's something they would be interested in dong."

Glen Policare, PIC Sports, Entertainment and Activities director agreed, saying, "The AHLEI program is a great opportunity for students who want to get started in the hospitality industry. Aside from the classroom assignments and lectures, the students are able to shadow professionals in the field to experience what may lay ahead."

The AHLEI program, which is currently only offered to Saipan public high school students, will begin offering courses to participants throughout the CNMI beginning in January 2015.

"The Latte Training Academy really wanted to begin course offerings at an appropriate pace. We were fortunate enough to partner with the CNMI Public School System and have received a tremendous response from students and employers. As a relatively young non-profit organization, we wanted to make every effort to make certain our growth ensured stability and long-term success. Beginning in 2015, the Latte Training Academy will be offering various AHLEI certification courses to other segments of the CNMI," said Latte Training Academy president Arielle Buyum.

The organization plans to offer the coveted AHLEI certificates to existing hotel employees through an integration into employee development programs already instituted in many hotels across the Commonwealth.

Jim Arenovski, Island Training Solutions president and Latte Training Academy's exclusive training partner, believes that trained and qualified hotel and hospitality workers are essential to the longevity of the CNMI's tourism industry.

"The AHLEI certification courses can easily be integrated into many of the hotels' existing training programs. Our goal is to ensure that our entire hotel and hospitality workforce exceeds that of other destinations. We have to keep in mind that our primary economic driver is the tourism industry and, as such, we have to ensure that our product is world-class, and that starts with the workforce," Arenovski stated.

In addition to course offerings, the Latte Training Academy works alongside students to aid in their résumé development and interview skills. "We want to make sure that each participant has all the necessary tools to be successful in the job market. It is not enough to train students with the hard and soft skills needed to perform the job, but we have to ensure that they are able to understand the job search process, as well as quality interviewing skills," said LTA treasurer Jeremy Sasamoto.

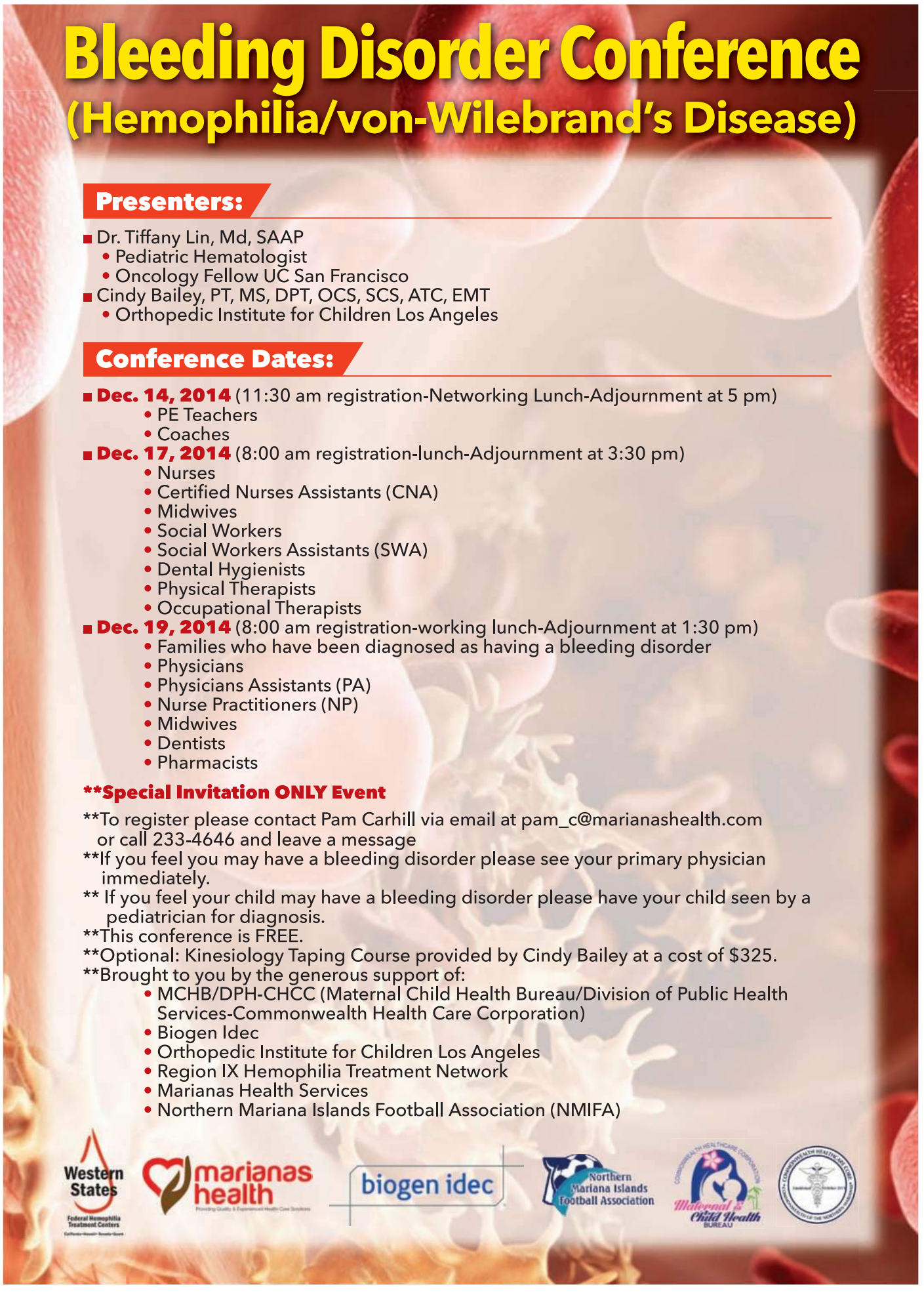
The organization, which is entering its second year of operations, has received strong support from key groups, including the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Public School System, the CNMI Department of Commerce, and CNMI Department of Labor.

"We are truly excited for the coming year and believe that we will be able to play a part in the preparation of our workforce given the unprecedented shift in our labor force. We certainly see the organization as being part of the solution and we continue to seek out synergies with other organizations to achieve a better CNMI," said Buyum.

As the fall 2014 hotel and hopitality courses are finishing up prior to the new year, all interested Saipan public high school junior and senior students are encouraged to enroll for the spring 2015. A total of 25 spots at each of the Saipan public high schools are available.

"We do have a waiting list from the previous term, so we encourage any public high school junior or senior interested in taking the course and earning the certification to contact their counselor to sign up," said Buyum.

To learn more about the Latte Training Academy and their programs, contact lattetrainingacademy@outlook.com. ***(LTA)***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Presenters:
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• Pediatric Hematologist
• Oncology Fellow UC San Francisco
■ Cindy Bailey, PT, MS, DPT, OCS, SCS, ATC, EMT
• Orthopedic Institute for Children Los Angeles
Conference Dates:
■ Dec. 14, 2014 (11:30 am registration-Networking Lunch-Adjournment at 5 pm)
• PE Teachers
• Coaches
■ Dec. 17, 2014 (8:00 am registration-lunch-Adjournment at 3:30 pm)
• Nurses
• Certified Nurses Assistants (CNA)
• Midwives
• Social Workers
• Social Workers Assistants (SWA)
• Dental Hygienists
• Physical Therapists
• Occupational Therapists
■ Dec. 19, 2014 (8:00 am registration-working lunch-Adjournment at 1:30 pm)
• Families who have been diagnosed as having a bleeding disorder
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Farmers cooperative meeting postponed

The CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association General membership meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Dec. 6, has been postponed. ***(PR)***

Public library closed on Tuesday

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014, in observance of Constitution Day. ***(PR)***

KHS 'Partners in Print' in January

Kagman High School's Partners in Print is starting in January. All students of KHS and their parents are welcome to attend. This year we will be having four sessions for parents in the Kagman, Capital Hill, and San Vincente areas and four sessions for parents in Tanapag, San Roque, and As Matius areas. The dates are as follows:

■ KHS Café: Jan. 17, Feb. 7, March 7, and April 14

■ Tanapag Head Start Center: Jan. 31, Feb. 21, March 21, and April 18

Finale will be on May 2 and it will be a carnival theme with entertainment provided by KHS students.

Parents that come along with their child will receive three raffle tickets for the drawing at the end of the school year and 10 tickets for use at the carnival. Students will receive a raffle ticket for the school drawing and 10 tickets for the carnival. ***(PR)***

Red flag up at Old Man By the Sea

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beach at the Old Man By the Sea and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Dec. 8-11, from 9am to 5pm and 6-11:55pm

■ Dec. 12, from 9am to 5pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Business

House OKs bill to widen federal help for disabled

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a bipartisan show of unity, the House overwhelmingly approved a bill Wednesday to allow Americans with disabilities to open tax-free bank accounts to pay for expenses from education to housing and health care.

The 404-17 vote approves the most sweeping legislation to help the disabled since 1990, affecting as many as 54 million disabled people and their families who often struggle to pay for intensive forms of care. It now goes to the Senate, where it was expected to move quickly to passage in the coming days.

At a time when Congress is bitterly divided over immigration, taxes and spending, House members touted the bill as evidence that both parties can get things done. First introduced in 2006, the legislation, called the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, lists 85 percent of Congress as co-sponsors, even after a conservative group criticized it as a "decisive step in expanding the welfare state."

It would the first major legislation for the disabled since the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act.

Dozens of supporters of the bill, including parents of children with Down syndrome, were in the House chamber as lawmakers cast their votes, waiting in anticipation after years of pushing the legislation. William Daroff of the Jewish Federations of North America, which co-chairs the Jewish Disability Network, called this a "tremendous" day.

Modeled after tax-free college savings accounts, the bill would amend the federal tax code to allow states to establish the program. To qualify, a person would have to be diagnosed with a disability by age 26 that results in "marked and severe functional limitations"; those who are already receiving Social Security disability benefits would also qualify. Families then would be able to set up tax-free accounts at financial institutions, depositing up to $14,000 annually to pay for long-term needs such as education, transportation and health care.

The contributions would be in after-tax dollars but earnings would grow tax free.

The ABLE accounts would be able to accrue up to $100,000 in savings without the person losing eligibility for government aid such as Social Security; currently, the asset limit is $2,000. Medicaid coverage would continue no matter how much money is deposited in the accounts.

Air bag maker balks at coast-to-coast recall

WASHINGTON (AP)—Japan's Takata Corp. rejected federal regulators' demand Wednesday for an expanded, nationwide recall of millions of air bags, setting up a possible legal showdown and leaving some drivers to wonder about the safety of their cars.

Amid the standoff, Honda Motor Co. decided to act on its own and recall cars with the potentially defective equipment in all 50 states. But other automakers have yet to make a decision.

At issue are air bags whose inflators can explode with too much force, hurling shrapnel into the passenger compartment. At least five deaths and dozens of injuries have been linked to the problem worldwide.

Over the past six years, Takata and 10 automakers issued a series of recalls covering 8 million cars in the U.S., mostly in high-humidity areas such as the Gulf Coast, because of evidence that moisture can cause the propellant to burn too quickly. But after incidents in California and North Carolina, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began pressing for the recall of 8 million more vehicles from coast to coast—a demand that Takata flatly rejected.

"There's not enough scientific evidence to change from a regional recall to a national recall," Hiroshi Shimizu, Takata senior vice president of global quality assurance, told a House subcommittee on Capitol Hill.

Takata also contends that NHTSA has authority to seek recalls only from auto manufacturers and makers of replacement parts, not from original parts suppliers—a position NHTSA contests.

Shimizu insisted that the air bags are safe: "I would drive a car with a Takata air bag."

Hiroshi Shimizu, senior vice president of global quality assurance at Takata, testifies before the House Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014. AP

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Nation

Protests erupt as cop cleared; feds to investigate

NEW YORK (AP)—A grand jury cleared a white police officer Wednesday in the videotaped chokehold death of an unarmed black man stopped for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes, triggering protests in the streets by hundreds of New Yorkers who likened the case to the deadly police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri.

As the demonstrations mounted, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said federal authorities would conduct a civil rights investigation into the July 17 death of Eric Garner at the hands of Officer Daniel Pantaleo.

Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan said the grand jury found "no reasonable cause" to bring charges, but unlike the chief prosecutor in the Ferguson case, he gave no details on how the panel arrived at its decision. The grand jury could have considered a range of charges, from reckless endangerment to murder.

Protesters gathered in Times Square and converged on the heavily secured area around the annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting with a combination of professional-looking signs and hand-scrawled placards reading, "Black lives matter" and "Fellow white people, wake up." And in the Staten Island neighborhood where Garner died, people reacted with angry disbelief and chanted, "I can't breathe!" and "Hands up—don't choke!"

AP

Protestors shout at Times Square after it was announced that the New York City police officer involved in the death of Eric Garner is not being indicted, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, in New York.

Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, said the grand jury decision "just tore me up."

"I couldn't see how a grand jury could vote and say there was no probable cause," she said. "What were they looking at? Were they looking at the same video the rest of the world was looking at?"

In his first public comments, Pantaleo said he prays for Garner's family and hopes they accept his condolences.

"I became a police officer to help people and to protect those who can't protect themselves," he said in the statement. "It is never my intention to harm anyone, and I feel very bad about the death of Mr. Garner."

Police union officials and Pantaleo's lawyer argued that the officer used a takedown move taught by the police department, not a banned maneuver, because Garner was resisting arrest. They said his poor health was the main reason he died.

Mayor Bill de Blasio canceled an appearance at the tree lighting and met with Garner's father and other community leaders. At a Staten Island church, he said, "There's a lot of pain and frustration in the room this evening," but he called on protesters to remain peaceful.

"I couldn't help but immediately think what it would mean to me to lose Dante," the mayor said about his teenage son, who is half-black. "Life would never be the same for me after."

A video shot by an onlooker and widely viewed on the Internet showed the 43-year-old Garner telling a group of police officers to leave him alone as they tried to arrest him. Pantaleo responded by wrapping his arm around Garner's neck in what appeared to be a chokehold, which is banned under New York Police Department policy.

The heavyset Garner, who had asthma, was heard repeatedly gasping, "I can't breathe!"

Experts said that without knowing how prosecutors presented the case, it's difficult to theorize how the grand jury reached its decision. To find Pantaleo criminally negligent, the panel would have had to determine he knew there was a "substantial risk" that Garner would have died.

Critics of the outcome in Ferguson—where a grand jury refused last week to indict a white police officer who shot unarmed black 18-year-old Michael Brown—complained that prosecutors there allowed the officer to give a self-serving account without challenging inconsistencies.

The Garner video "speaks for itself," said Jeffrey Fagan, a professor at Columbia Law School. "It appears to show negligence. But if we learned anything from the Brown case, it's the power of prosecutors to construct and manage a narrative in a way that can shape the outcome."

While details on the grand jurors were not disclosed, Staten Island is the most politically conservative of the city's five boroughs and home to many police and firefighters. The district attorney said he will seek to have information on the investigation released.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. August 26, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
   b. October 10, 2014 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SICPP
   f. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program Report
   c. JROTC Report
   d. NMI History Project Part II (Update)
   e. Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Rules and Regulations (Final):
   a. §60-20-400 Promotion and Graduation Requirements
   b. §60-20-700 Financial Operation
   c. §60-20-900 Retention of Records/Audits
   d. §60-30.2 Certification
   e. §60-30.3 Annual Leave
   f. §60-40 Procurement Rules and Regulations
2. House Legislative Initiative No. 18-12 (Update)
3. Koblerville Gym Sub-recipient agreement
4. Updates on Audit Matters:
   a. Audit FY11
      i. Report on the FY11 CAP for the USDE Special Conditions Report (09/30/14)
   b. Audit FY12
      i. DHHS-ACF Audit No. A-09-14-22989 Acceptance of PSS CAP
      ii. FTA Close-out on FY12 Audit Finding based on PSS Responses
   c. Audit FY13
      i. State BOE's Response to IG-HHS Report No. A-09-14-25432
      ii. PSS Responses to Federal OHS Reviewer on Head Start FY1 For HHS Audit No. A-09-14-25432
5. Certification Matters:
   a. CLO Report No. 2014-008

VI. Executive Session[2]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters
1. Office Equipment re BOE Members

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

NOTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan MO 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.mmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2015. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY-MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 12, 2014 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

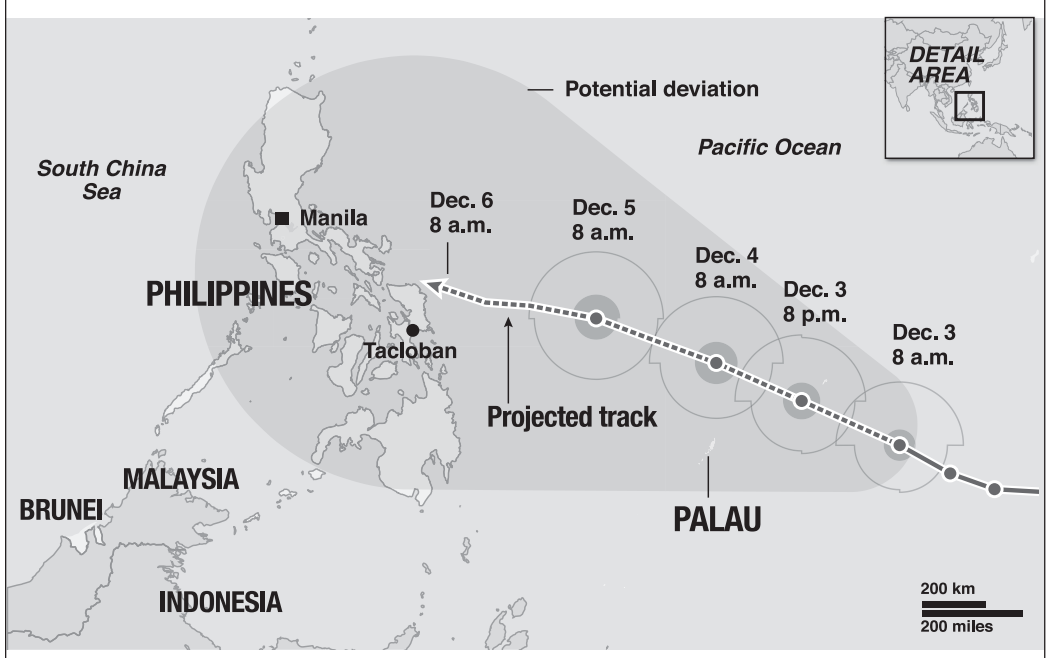
/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

Asia

Approaching Philippine storm brings back nightmare

Typhoon Hagupit

Tacloban, the worst-hit town by super typhoon Haiyan last year, is bracing for another typhoon that may make landfall in the Philippines on Sunday.



Sources: Reuters, Joint Typhoon Warning Centre, Accuweather Tribune News Service

All times are local (GMT +8) Data as of 11 a.m., Dec. 3

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government forecasters say a powerful storm will likely slam into the same central Philippine region smothered by Typhoon Haiyan last year, prompting villagers to flee from coastal homes and sparking panic-buying of food, water and gasoline.

Forecasters said Thursday that Typhoon Hagupit, which was packing sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour (122 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph, may hit Eastern Samar province on Saturday and barrel inland along the same route, where Haiyan leveled entire villages and left more than 7,300 dead and missing in November last year.

Haiyan survivor Emily Sagales says many of her neighbors in central Tacloban city have fled to a sports stadium, adding that long lines have formed in grocery stores and gas stations as residents braced for the storm.

Rights group: Police torture in Philippines rife

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Amnesty International said Thursday that five years after the Philippines passed a law criminalizing torture, the practice continues, with an overstretched police force resorting to "shortcuts" to extract confessions from criminal suspects.

The Philippine National Police has acknowledged violations persist but stressed they have taken action against erring officers and that cases have drastically declined in recent years, saying the Commission on Human Rights reported just six last year from 68 in 2011.

The human rights group said in a report released Thursday that eight of the 55 torture victims it interviewed were subjected to Russian roulette and threatened with death if they refused to cooperate. Two of them were shot but survived. Others were systematically beaten, received electric shocks and forced to sit or sleep in an uncomfortable position for long periods without food or water. At least two were stripped naked with their genital tied to a string pulled by police officers, it said.

The report said that no one has been convicted under the 2009 Anti-Torture Act.

Particularly worrying, Amnesty said, was the existence of unofficial and secret detention centers where it said torture and other ill-treatment were likely to take place.

The report cited the secret detention facility in Laguna, a province south of Manila, which was exposed by the Philippine Commission on Human Rights in January. Forty-three detainees were found inside the facility where police officers played a "wheel of torture" game to have fun and punish criminal suspects during interrogation.

The small police-to-population ratio where 150,000 police officers serve a population of 100 million Filipinos, a lack of forensic capability and reliance on witness testimony underlie the use of torture and ill-treatment to extract confession, the report said.

Many of the torture victims said those who arrested them wore civilian clothes, did not identify themselves as police officers and did not inform them of the charges against them nor their rights, the report said. Some were beaten, threatened at gunpoint, blindfolded and handcuffed then put in unmarked vehicles. Many were children under 18 when they were tortured or ill-treated, the report said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino top cop suspended over suspect contract

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines' chief anti-corruption prosecutor has ordered the suspension of the country's top police officer in connection with an alleged abnormal contract with a courier company to deliver gun licenses. Conchita Carpio Morales on Thursday issued the order to suspend National Police chief Allan Purisima and 11 other officers for six months without pay for entering into the courier contract. There was no immediate comment from Purisima, who is on an official trip to Saudi Arabia. He has also been under scrutiny in the media because of his ownership of a provincial mansion and other properties.

Man kills 2 in rare shooting incident in China

BEIJING (AP)—A 51-year-old Chinese bank employee in the country's northeast fatally wounded two bank officials Wednesday with a shotgun in a rare shooting incident, local media reported. Local newspapers from the Liaoning province said the man, upset over a monetary dispute with his employer, opened fire on the president, the union chairman and two other colleagues in the lobby of a local branch of People's Bank of China. Liaoshen Evening News said the suspect, identified by his family name Liu, was taken into custody. The paper said the man also wounded some bank customers.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 14-0023
-v-	]
TRINIDAD A. LIZAMA and JESUS SN. LIZAMA, Defendants.	] NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 12, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 218, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described of Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 005 I 03, the original of which was recorded on August 3, 1984, as Document 84-1400, at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 12, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of November, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff,	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 13-0238
-v-	]
MATTHEW A. OOKA and RITA M. OOKA Defendants.	] NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 7, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 330 R 12, situated in Sinapalo II, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 871 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 330 R 02 dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 92-858, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 12, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of November, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff, v. VICTORIA SN. BORJA and GENER P. DE JESUS, Defendants.	) CIVIL ACTION) NO.: 14-0205) **AMENDED SUMMONS**) **(For Publication)**

TO: VICTORIA SN. BORJA and GENER P. DE JESUS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED November 17, 2014

/s/ Kristy Diaz
CLERK OF COURT

Third Publication

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
AMENDMENT # 02

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the postponed Regular Meeting of the Board scheduled on November 20, 2014 has been rescheduled to Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - September 25, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
  - October 2, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Division Reports
- b. HOME Loans for Review and Approval
- c. Draft Annual Report (2013)
- d. LIHTC – Return and Reallocation
- e. Garapan Annex
- f. Personnel Matters
- g. Staff Training

IV. OLD BUSINESS
- a. Mortgage Credit Division
  - i. HOME Policies and Procedures
  - ii. Settlement Proposal

V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2013 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2014. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2014. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

World

UN weather agency: 2014 on track for hottest year

LIMA, Peru (AP)—With temperature data showing 2014 currently tied for the hottest year on record, the U.N. weather agency on Wednesday rejected claims that global warming has paused.

The World Meteorological Organization said the global average temperature in January-October was 0.57 Celsius (1.03 Fahrenheit) above average, the same as in record hot year 2010.

The ocean temperature set a new record in the nine-month period, while land temperatures were the fourth or fifth highest since record-keeping began in the 19th century, the WMO said in a report released at U.N. climate talks in Lima and at its headquarters in Geneva.

"The provisional information for 2014 means that 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have all occurred in the 21st century," WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said in a statement. "There is no standstill in global warming."

Climate skeptics point to a perceived hiatus in the temperature rise since 1998, an exceptionally hot year, to support their claims that man-made warming is not a big problem. Most climate scientists reject that idea. Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University said the long-term warming trend is combined with natural variations that tend to be cyclical, with a period of lower-than-average warming followed by a period of rapid warming.

"Whether such a period is about to begin, we cannot say but the warm 2014 is a reminder that the warming never stopped and the long term trend is up, up, up," Oppenheimer said.

Parts of the planet were cooler than average, including large areas of the U.S., Canada and central Russia. But most of the world experienced temperatures above average, with heat waves in South Africa, Australia and Argentina in January and in large parts of South America in October, according to the WMO assessment, which was based on two global data sets from the U.S. and one from Europe.

Ocean temperatures were particularly high in the northern hemisphere from June to October.

"Around 93 percent of the excess energy trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases from fossil fuels and other human activities ends up in the oceans. Therefore, the heat content of the oceans is key to understanding the climate system," the WMO said.

While scientists are now 95 percent certain that the temperature rise since the middle of the 20th century is mostly man-made, they can't say with the same confidence how the warming affects different parts of the climate system, including the frequency of tropical storms or hurricanes.

By Nov. 13 there had been 72 tropical storms, well below the average of 89.

Arctic sea ice shrunk to the sixth lowest level on record in September, while Antarctic sea ice grew to a record extent for the third straight year.

US says Iran has launched airstrikes in Iraq against IS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iranian jets have carried out airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq in recent days, Pentagon officials and independent analysts say, underscoring the strange alliances generated by the war against the extremist group that has beheaded Americans and killed and terrorized Iraqi civilians.

Washington and Tehran are locked in tough negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. But the two adversaries have been fighting parallel campaigns on the same side in Iraq to defend the Shiite-dominated government—and the region's Kurds—from IS militants who seized a large section of the country.

It has long been known that Iranian troops and advisers have been fighting alongside Iraqi forces, but until this week there had been no confirmation of Iranian air activity. The timing and nature of the strikes are not clear, but a senior U.S. official said they occurred in Diyala province, which extends from northeast Baghdad to the Iranian border. The official spoke only on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose that information.

The Qatari-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera filmed a jet flying over Iraq on Nov. 30 that was identified by Jane's Defence Weekly as an American-made F-4 Phantom. The Phantom, a twin-engine fighter bomber that was sold to Iran's U.S.-backed shah in the 1970s, was last produced by McDonnell Aircraft Corp. in 1981.

Iran in the 1980s fought a brutal, ultimately stalemated war with Iraq when that country was led by Saddam Hussein and his Sunni-controlled Baath Party. But the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam left an Iraqi government closely aligned with Iran. A majority of Iraqis are Shiite, as are most Iranians. The Islamic State group, which also controls parts of Syria, is led by Sunni extremists and has attracted many Sunnis who felt disenfranchised by Baghdad.

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

CENTURY INSURANCE CO., LTD.
Applicant

In the Matter of the Application for Withdrawal and to Permanently Discontinue the Transaction of Insurance Business in the CNMI pursuant to § 20-40.1-210 of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner Rules and Regulations

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW

Notice is hereby given that Century Insurance Company, Ltd., with business address at JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950 intends to withdraw and to permanently discontinue the transaction of insurance business in the CNMI, effective December 31, 2014.

All current and existing policies and claims will be assumed by Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd., effective January 1, 2015.

Any person who objects to such withdrawal must give good sufficient cause therefore within one (1) week from date of last publication with the Insurance Commissioner with mailing address at Caller Box 10007 CK, Saipan MP 96950.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following position.

Communications Officer

- Implementing communications strategy defined by SVP Corporate Communications;
- Liaising with internal departments and answering inquiries from media, individuals and other organizations, often via telephone and email;
- Researching, writing, and distributing press releases to media;
- Collating and analyzing media coverage;
- Producing daily news analysis on current affairs on the CNMI;
- preparing and coordinating the production of marketing materials, inclusive but not limited to company brochures, leaflets, website, press kits;
- devising and coordinating photo opportunities;
- organizing events including press events, community projects, inclusive of production of event, coordinating participants and invitees;
- maintaining and updating information on the organization's website;
- managing and updating information and engaging with users on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook;
- fostering community relations through events such as open days and through involvement in community initiatives;
- other related duties.

Minimum Job Requirements

- College graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field with good command of language proficiency
- 3-4 years working experience in related discipline: publishing, PR and communications
- Ability to write good quality press material
- Good project management and coordination skills
- Sociable and good people's skill
- Fast learner
- Adaptability to multi-cultural environment
- Flexible working hours

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (2)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and/or Finance from an accredited college or university with minimum of 3 years work experience in supervisory level, supervising at least 2 associates. CPA board passer and with experience in Property & Casualty Insurance accounting operations is an advantage. Knowledgeable in SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Background in General Insurance Information System (GENIISYS) is a plus. Proficient in analyzing financial statements and must have knowledge in external regulatory reporting requirements. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge in Excel is a must.

Branch Manager
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Underwriting and Claims Supervisor
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communication skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software GENIISYS. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company (Saipan), Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 15, 2014.

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL II
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs general court security duties, including providing safety and security during judicial proceedings, providing protection from harm and personal injury to assigned justices, judges, court personnel, clients, jurors and witnesses;
- Provide protection from damage and vandalism to the court facilities, equipment and other related resources;
- Assist with all necessary inspection and screening of persons and items entering the court facilities restricting from entry those that are prohibited within the court premises;
- Assists in transporting and escorting prisoners and other detainees who are awaiting court appearance. This includes transporting prisoners from the Department of Public Safety (or from other locations as instructed) to the courthouse and return; from the courthouse holding cells to the courtrooms and return, and other related work;
- Provide physical and electronic security monitoring of all assigned areas under the control of the Marshal Division;
- Assist in protecting and transporting (if necessary) jurors and other court personnel during jury trial and deliberation;
- Assist with court bailiff functions;
- Assist in the preparation of reports of service and no-service, including submission of daily activity and incident reports;
- Provides the general public with direction and general information on all judicial service locations with the courthouse;
- Attends and successfully completes all training courses as directed by the Director of Law Enforcement and Security, including but not limited to, any law enforcement officers training courses offered through the Northern Marians College;
- Assists the other Deputy Marshals in their duties; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree, plus a minimum of two (2) years experience in legal, law enforcement, court work or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $18,585 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Safety in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Off The Wall

Huge Utah nativity scene breaks Guinness record

PROVO, Utah (AP)—More than 1,000 people dressed as angels, wise men and religious royalty gathered at a park in Provo, Utah, and set a new Guinness record for the largest live nativity scene.

The event on Monday featured a variety of performers who made videos posted on YouTube. It is also expected to serve as a backdrop for a music video.

Guinness World Record judge Michael Empric determined there were 1,039 participants in the production, along with a camel, donkey and sheep, the Daily Herald of Provo reported (http://bit.ly/1FJW2h8).

That tops the record of 898 people last year at a nativity scene in the United Kingdom.

Organizers, however, said breaking the record was secondary to emphasizing religious faith over Christmas-season shopping.

"We wanted to do it simply to show the world what Christmas is all about," said Derral Eves, one of the producers. "It is not all the presents, but it is about the true gift of Christmas—Jesus Christ."

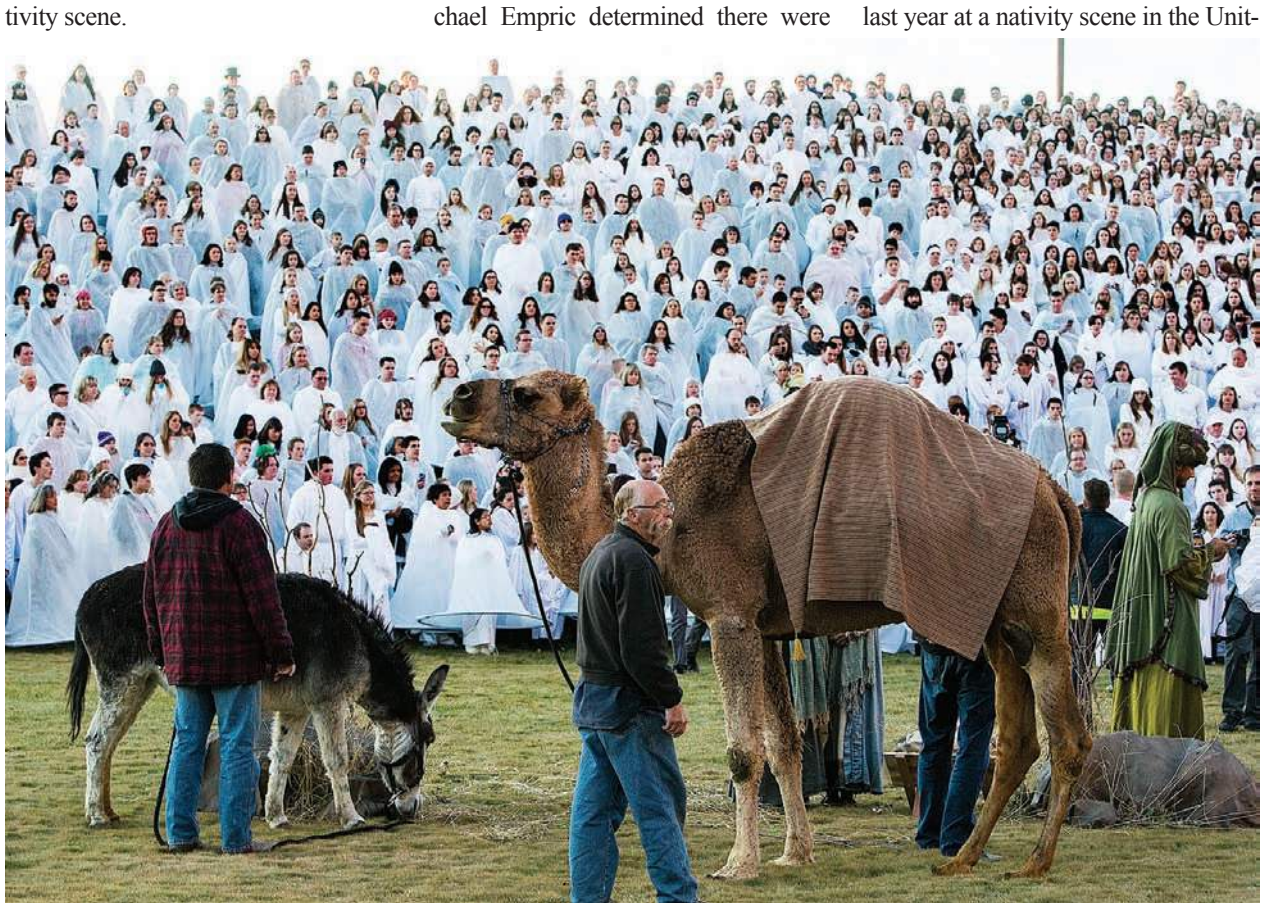
The event was planned and put together in less than a month—thanks in large part to about 50 families that helped sew all the costumes, Eves said. Some of the costumes had battery-powered lights attached as trimming.

One woman sewed about 75 costumes, said Valerie Harmon, who organized the costume effort.

"It was sort of like an old-fashioned community sewing bee," Harmon said.

The event was promoted on social media, which is how Nathan Hutson of Bozeman, Montana, found out. Hutson, a Catholic, joined the mostly-Mormon group to be part of the nativity scene.

"The fact that this is an interfaith event is absolutely wonderful," Hutson told the newspaper. "It allows everyone to say—despite our differences in religion. we are all celebrating the birth of Christ."



AP

In this photo taken on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, more than 1,000 participants gather at Rock Canyon Park in Provo, Utah, in an attempt to set a world record for the largest recreation of a live Nativity scene.

Surgeon disciplined for removing wrong kidney

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A California surgeon has been disciplined for removing a prisoner's healthy kidney and leaving the diseased one intact.

The state medical board last week placed Dr. Charles Coonan Streit on probation for three years, the Orange County Register reported Tuesday.

The board said Streit, a urologist who has had his license for 41 years, relied on memory to decide which kidney to remove because he didn't have access to the patient's complete medical records.

The 2012 operation at Fullerton's St. Jude Medical Center involved a 59-year-old federal inmate. The hospital was fined $100,000 by the California Department of Public Health because CT scans were left in an office on the day of the surgery. The hospital now mandates such images be submitted before a procedure is scheduled, a spokeswoman said.

The nurses and an anesthesiologist who assisted Streit in the kidney surgery told state inspectors that they repeatedly asked the patient which kidney was diseased, and he told them the wrong side.

As a condition of his probation, Streit is required to enroll in a wrong-site surgery course at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine. He is also barred from supervising physician assistants.

The inmate underwent a second procedure to have the cancerous kidney removed.

An attorney representing Streit didn't reply to a message seeking comment.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Claire A. Kautz

FEBRUARY 27, 1936 -NOVEMBER 21, 2014

Predeceased By Her Parents: †Lester and Florence Blake
And Her Husband: †Richard P. Kautz, Sr.

Claire will always be loved and her memories will forever remain in the hearts of her children and grandchildren:

Richard P. Jr. and Regina G. Kautz
Richard III and Michelle, David and Yvette, Thomas, Richelle, Michelle, Claire, Peter and Adelle

David J. and Azenith Kautz
Timothy, Dean and David Jr.

Thomas C. and Yumei D. Kautz

Peter B. and Helen Kautz

Claire is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews and special friends.

The final memorial Mass will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan, Saipan. Please join us as we celebrate her new life.

Thank you for your loving support and prayers,

Richard P. Kautz Jr., Regina and Family

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the Late

†ANGELINA SABLAN QUITUGUA

Lovingly known as "Nan Ninang"

Would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our family, friends, and acquintances, for the genuine words of sympathy, the unselfish assistance, and all the heartfelt donations you all have extended to us during our time of sorrow and need, but most especially for your presence, thoughts and prayers for our dearly beloved Mother, ANGELINA. There are no other words, more virtuous, we can honestly find to sincerely and deeply express our most profound appreciation for us to extend to all of you, "UN SEN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE, YA NI NGAI'AN BAI EN FAN MALEFA NU HAMYU TODUS; THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH AND WE WILL NEVER FOR GET YOU ALL".

In addition, we are respectfully extending a special thank you and heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Pale Isidro Ogumoro for his blessing and presiding during the Christian Burial Mass, our techa, Mrs. Edwina I. Taitano-Ngotel for leading the nightly rosary and her prayers, our families for their most passionate and enthusiastic assistance.

Un sen dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase and thank you so much to all.

The Family

Science & Technology

Americans watch less TV, stream more, report shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans are turning away from live TV on the tube and tuning in to streaming services, a Nielsen report says.

That's bad news for cable and satellite TV providers. Americans are increasingly watching TV shows and movies on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon streaming and other services. CBS and HBO have announced standalone streaming services as well.

About 45 percent of Americans stream television shows at least once a month, according to research firm eMarketer. That number is expected to increase to 53 percent or 175 million people by 2018, it says.

According to the Nielsen report, which came out Wednesday, the average daily time spent watching live TV fell 12 minutes in the third quarter to four hours and 32 minutes. That means it dropped nearly 4 percent to 141 hours per month.

Meanwhile, time spent watching streaming services jumped 60 percent to nearly 11 hours each month.

That's still a small amount compared with live TV, but it is growing quickly.

"Content is still king, but consumers are shaping their own content-discovery experience, and the evolving media landscape has not lessened consumer demand for quality, professionally produced content," Dounia Turrill, senior vice president of insights at Nielsen, said in a statement. "What has changed is the number and reliability of new media available to viewers."

TECH Q&A

'Snipping' a still photo from a video

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have a homemade movie on DVD. Is there a way I can pause the video on my PC and save the image to my Windows 7 computer?—Roger Bee, Aubin Grove, Australia

A: You can save a still image from your DVD movie, but the quality may not be great. Single video frames often reveal shortcomings that aren't obvious while the video is playing, such as blurring from motion or low resolution, when compared to a photograph.

The easiest way to copy a still image from your DVD movie is to use the "Snipping Tool" program that is included in Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8. In Windows 7, you can find the program by clicking the Windows Start button and searching for "Snipping Tool."

You snip an image by dragging the cursor over it; Snipping Tool can then store the image in the widely used JPEG digital photo format or several others. For details on Snipping Tool, see tinyurl.com/kqz9htf and tinyurl.com/lbghmrq.

You can also find similar programs, such as the free Cobra Snipping Tool, at tinyurl.com/nxd2yo7. During Cobra's installation, you'll be shown the "terms of use and privacy policy." At the bottom, check "custom install" and uncheck everything else.

Q: I recently purchased a 512-gigabyte SSD (solid-state drive, which uses flash memory chips), to replace the hard drive on my five-year-old Windows 7 PC. But when I removed my PC's hard drive, I noticed that it had four more electrical connector pins than the SSD. Will this SSD work in my PC?—Hermes Cervantes, Eden Prairie, Minn.

A: The SSD will work. Hard drives have extra electrical connecting pins because they get control signals from the PC that SSDs don't need.

One such signal controls the "spin-up" of the hard disk from its motionless state to the thousands of rotations per minute it spins while data is being stored or retrieved. Because an SSD has no spinning disk, it doesn't require that signal. Other signals keep the disk drive synchronized with the PC. SSDs, which operate faster than disk drives, don't need those signals.

Q: After reading your column about software compatibility (see tinyurl.com/mweptam), I expected to have trouble using my old Microsoft Office 2000 program on my 64-bit Windows 7 PC. But it works fine. Will Office 2000 also work if I buy a new Windows 8.1 PC?—Wendell Laposata, King George, Va.

A: Probably not. Microsoft says that most versions of Office 2000 are incompatible with Windows 8.1 (see tinyurl.com/odkb5l8.) It's unclear why, since Office 2000 has storage addresses that are 32 bits long; before Windows 8 that would have made it compatible.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Japanese space explorer to blow crater in asteroid

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese space explorer took off Wednesday on a six-year journey to blow a crater in a remote asteroid and bring back rock samples in hopes of gathering clues to the origin of Earth.

The explorer, named Hayabusa2, is expected to reach the asteroid in mid-2018, spend about 18 months studying it and return in late 2020.

A small device will separate from the explorer and shoot a projectile to blast open a crater a few meters (several feet) in diameter. The explorer, which will hide behind the asteroid during the blast, will then try to collect material from inside the crater.

Asteroids can provide evidence not available on Earth about the birth of the solar system and its evolution. JAXA, Japan's space agency, said the research could help explain the origin of seawater and how the planet earth was formed.

Hayabusa2 will attempt to expand on the work of Hayabusa, a previous explorer that returned in 2010 after collecting material from the surface of another asteroid. By reaching inside an asteroid this time, the new explorer may recover material that is not as weathered by the space environment and heat.

The earlier mission was plagued by mechanical failures and other problems. JAXA hopes improvements since then will make this trip smoother.

"The mission was completed one way or another, but we stumbled along the way," said Akitaka Kishi of JAXA's lunar and planetary exploration program. "To travel there and bring back something is extremely difficult."

Message of Appreciation

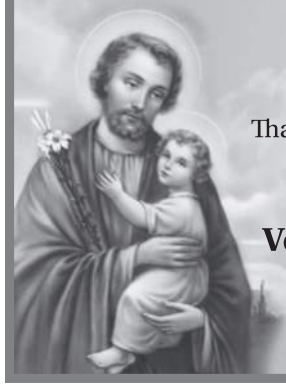
We, the family of the Late

†CANICE QUITUGUA KAPILEO

Lovingly known as "Kan"

would like to thank God Almighty for his unfailing love and the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we have full confidence that our Loved One is now in a better place in the presence of our Creator in Heaven.

We also want to express our deep and profound appreciation to all our families, relatives and friends who have given unselfishly and have comforted and shown love to us in so many ways. We are respectfully extending a special thank you and heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Pale Isidro Ogumoro for his blessing and presiding during the Christian Burial Mass, our techa, Mrs. Edwina I. Taitano-Ngotel, for leading the nightly rosary and her prayers, our families for their most passionate and enthusiastic assistance. Your presence and encouragement have helped, touched and given us the strength to carry on each day.



To God be the Glory!

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisou,
Kinisou Chapur

Veronica Esther (Noning)
T. Kapileo,
Children and Family

In Celebration Of Her New Life

†MARIA DLR. KAAINOA

DOB: June 7, 1952 • DOD: November 27, 2014

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Joaquin San Nicolas Reyes
†Juana Torres Pangelinan Reyes

Parents-in-law: †John Simeon Kaainoa
†Felicidad Misa Kaainoa

Son: †Mario DLR. Kaainoa

Siblings: †Pedro P. Reyes
†Filipe P. Reyes
†Consolation T. Hocog
†Angelina P. Cruz

Siblings-in-law: †Antonio M. Hocog
†Francisco P. Deleon Guerrero
†Juan I. Iguel
†Leon Ogarto
†Ignacio P. Cruz
†Maria A. Pangelinan
†Lorna Reyes

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Juan Mesa Kaainoa

Children: Kamisha and Jesse Dominguez & Children
Jack Dan DLR. Kaainoa
Juana and Jim Brel & Children
Esther and Shay & Children
Lucresia and Paul Silk & Children
Sheldon DLR. Kaainoa & Children

Siblings: Jose T. Pangelinan and Limei Yang & Children
Moises T. and Kathalina K. Pangelinan & Children
Antonio P. and Connie Reyes & Children
Juan P. and Elaine B. Reyes & Children

Sister-in-law: Lani P. Reyes & Children

Siblings-in-law: Simon M. and Elenita S. Kaainoa & Children
David M. Kaainoa
Hannah K. Ogarto & Children
Dolores K. Iguel & Children
Lorette K. Deleon Guerrero & Children
Leonar Misa & Children

She will also be missed by numerous nephews, nieces, godchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

On Friday, December 5, 2014, at 7:30 a.m. she will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel to the Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Church for viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

The Family

Life & Style

Thousands gather for NYC Christmas Tree lighting

AP
The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree can be seen through the Channel Gardens following a lighting ceremony, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Thousands celebrated in the heart of Manhattan on Wednesday night as they watched the lighting of the 85-foot-tall Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center.

Kids, and kids at heart, soaked in the season's sights, including 45,000 LED lights primed for the flick of a switch, and sounds including performances by Mariah Carey and Cyndi Lauper.

"I've always wanted to come," said Lianne Payne, 20, of Swansea, Wales. "I was, like, we have to come. In London, they've got big trees—but not quite this big."

Her boyfriend, Carwyn Richards, 21: "She dragged me here. I don't like standing around in a crowd," he said with a wry grin.

Patricia Donnelly, 70, came from Greenwich, Connecticut, to see the lighting for the first time in 20 years.

"It was very different then," she said, standing in a crowd squeezed into a police-barricaded pen. "There weren't so many barricades then, and you could see the whole tree. Tonight, we'll see only half the tree."

She went at the last-minute urging of her "significant other," Joseph Matkovich, 74.

"This is a gift to us," he said, gazing at the 13-ton spruce.

The ceremony came just hours after a grand jury decided not to indict a police officer in a man's videotaped chokehold death. Mayor Bill de Blasio canceled his scheduled appearance to meet with elected officials and activists on Staten Island as citywide protests started to gather steam.

Police presence was heavy as hundreds of protesters stood behind rows of police barricades jamming the sidewalks on Fifth Avenue within sight of the holiday revelers. A block away on Sixth Avenue, police in riot gear faced off with protesters behind metal barricades.

But the annual tradition went on as planned.

The tree's former home was outside a century-old farmhouse in Danville, Pennsylvania.

"It's really cool to be here. It's such a beautiful night, and there's so many people here—the air is just alive—and I look at my magical tree," said swimming coach Rachel Drosdick-Sigafoos, 29, who donated the spruce with her husband, Dan Sigafoos, 39, a lab technician.

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EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) Thu.800 PM
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 [CC,DV] (R)
Fri.(445 PM) 725 PM 1015 PM
Sat.(215 445) 725 1015
Sun.(215 PM 445 PM) 725 PM
Mon. - Thu.(445 PM) 725 PM
THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri.700 PM 920 PM
Sat.(440 PM) 700 PM
Sun.(220 PM) 700 PM
Mon. - Wed.700 PM
Thu.730 PM
THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR 3D [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri.(440 PM)
Sat.(220 PM) 920 PM
Sun. - Thu.(440 PM)
HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 1 [CC,DV]
Fri.(415 PM) 705 PM 1000 PM
Sat.(110 415) 705 1000
Sun.(110 PM 415 PM) 705 PM
Mon. - Thu.(415 PM) 705 PM
DUMB AND DUMBER TO [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(420 PM) 715 PM 1005 PM
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Sun.(130 PM 420 PM) 715 PM
Mon. - Thu.(420 PM) 715 PM
BIG HERO 6 [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(425 PM) 955 PM
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BIG HERO 6 3D [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri.720 PM
Sat. - Sun.(135 PM) 720 PM
Mon. - Thu.720 PM
INTERSTELLAR [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(400 PM) 700 PM 930 PM
Sat.(100 400) 700 930
Sun.(100 PM 400 PM) 700 PM
Mon. - Wed.(400 PM) 700 PM
Thu.(400 PM)
OUIJA [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(430 PM) 730 PM 1020 PM
Sat.(125 430) 730 1020
Sun.(125 PM 430 PM) 730 PM
Mon. - Wed.(430 PM) 730 PM
Times For 12/05 - 12/11 www.REGmovies.com

'Grand Theft Auto V' pulled by Australian retailer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Target Australia is removing "Grand Theft Auto V" from store shelves after more than 40,000 people who say the video game encourages players to murder women for entertainment signed an online petition asking the retailer to stop selling it.

The decision is the latest in a long line of controversies sparked by the 17-year-old video game series that casts players as car-stealing criminals.

"We've been speaking to many customers over recent days about the game, and there is a significant level of concern about the game's content," said Jim Cooper, Target Australia's general manager of corporate affairs, on Wednesday. "We've also had customer feedback in support of us selling the game, and we respect their perspective on the issue."

A petition posted Nov. 29 on Change.org called for Target Australia to stop selling "GTA V" because it "makes a game of bashing, killing and horrific violence against women."

The latest installment in Rockstar Games' action-adventure series centers on a trio of bank robbers in Los Santos, a tongue-in-cheek rendition of Los Angeles. The open-world, third-person game allows players to participate in a several optional virtual activities, including visiting strip clubs and hiring prostitutes, as well as playing tennis and riding a roller coaster.

"GTA V" originally debuted in 2013 for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360. A new edition for the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One released last month adds the ability to play in a first-person perspective, offering a closer glimpse at gameplay, including sex acts that were previously obscured.

Strauss Zelnick, chairman and CEO of Rockstar Games' parent company, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc., called the Australian retailer's decision to stop selling the game disappointing.

For one Cosby accuser, a day in court awaits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For weeks, women have publicly shared stories of alleged sexual abuse by Bill Cosby with the expectation that any lawsuits they might file would be blocked due to long-expired statutes of limitations.

On Tuesday, however, a woman who claims Cosby molested her in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974 filed a sexual battery lawsuit, using an exemption that allows victims of childhood sexual abuse to sue decades after the incident.

Judy Huth contends she was 15 years old when Cosby abused her and filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles because she only recently became aware of psychological damage caused by the incident. Experts say Huth's lawsuit is the latest high-profile example of an alleged abuse victim getting their day in court.

"The reality is, with sexual violence and a lot of traumatic events, is that you don't discover either the full extent or even any of the trauma immediately," said Meg Garvin, a law professor and executive director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute.

She said statute of limitations laws that limited victims, especially those of childhood sex abuse, from filing claims later in life reflect an outdated public policy.

"It was neglecting the reality of victimization," she said. "The original public policy is no longer valid because we know better now."

AP
Chelan, no last name given, who claims she was victimized by Bill Cosby, cries during a news conference at the offices of attorney Gloria Allred in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014.

'Frozen' short headed to theaters

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Frozen" favorites Anna, Elsa, and Olaf are headed back to the big screen in a new short film.

Walt Disney Animation Studios announced Wednesday it plans to show "Frozen Fever" in front of the live-action "Cinderella" that opens in theaters March 13.

The short reunites the Oscar-winning directing team from "Frozen": Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck. It will tell the story of Elsa and Kristoff's attempt to plan a birthday party for Anna.

"Frozen" is the fifth-highest grossing film of all time, with over $1.27 billion worldwide, and it continues to resonate with audiences.

Disney has had massive success with live-action updates of its animated classics, including 2014's "Maleficent." But the promise of a "Frozen" short with "Cinderella" will likely prove to be icing on their fairy tale cake.

AP

This image released by Disney shows, from left, Duke Weselton, voiced by Alan Tudyk, Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell, and Elsa the Snow Queen, voiced by Idina Menzel, in a scene from the animated feature "Frozen."

Taylor Swift mentor Scott Borchetta to join 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift's mentor and record executive Scott Borchetta will join "American Idol" when the show returns in January.

Fox announced Wednesday that the Big Machine Records CEO and president will work as a mentor on "Idol" when its 14th season debuts Jan. 7.

The winner of the next season of "Idol" will be signed to Borchetta's Big Machine Records. The roster includes Swift, Florida Georgia Line, Rascal Flatts, Tim McGraw, Reba McEntire, the Band Perry and Brantley Gilbert.

Jennifer Lopez, Keith Urban and Harry Connick Jr. are returning as judges on the series.

Big Machine Records is a subsidiary of Universal Music Group, which is also the parent label to Interscope and Def Jam Records.

Medical examiner: Actress died of blunt injuries

SEATTLE (AP)—A Seattle-area medical examiner says actress Misty Upham, known for her roles in "August: Osage County" and "Django Unchained," died of blunt-force injuries to her head and torso.

Upham

The King County medical examiner's office updated its investigation of the Oct. 5 death Wednesday, but the manner of death is still undetermined.

The 32-year-old actress died in the Seattle suburb of Auburn on the same day her family told police she was suicidal. Relatives reported her missing the next day.

Friends and family searching for Upham found her body in a ravine.

Auburn police say they believe the trauma was caused by a fall and there's no indication of foul play, but they don't know exactly what happened.

Upham's father has said he doesn't believe she committed suicide.

Jimmy Fallon and wife welcome their second child

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon has a re-run on his hands—he and his wife, Nancy, have welcomed their second child.

A representative for the host of "The Tonight Show" said Frances Cole Fallon was born at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces. People magazine first reported the birth.

Little Frances will join big sister Winnie Rose, 1. Both Fallon babies were born via surrogate.

The arrival of the new Fallon prompted NBC to cancel Wednesday and Thursday taping of the late-night show "due to unexpected but delightful circumstances." Repeats will air.

Fallon, who took over "The Tonight Show" this year, will have something to read to his brood: He has a book deal for the picture book "Your Baby's First Word Will Be Dada," scheduled for release in June.

AP

In this April 23, 2013 file photo, Talk show host Jimmy Fallon and wife Nancy Juvonen attend the TIME 100 Gala celebrating the "100 Most Influential People in the World" at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Cosby concerts in suburban NY cancelled

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Bill Cosby's scheduled performance this weekend at a suburban venue north of New York City has been cancelled. The Tarrytown Music Hall announced the cancellation Wednesday in an email to ticketholders. Some of Cosby's shows in some other states have been postponed after women have come forward alleging the veteran comic sexually assaulted them. Cosby has denied the allegations. Cosby had two sold-out engagements in Tarrytown on Saturday. Late last week, the promoter said people who didn't want to attend could get refunds, and nearly half of the audience had reportedly requested one. Tarrytown said Wednesday Cosby had agreed to cancel in consultation with the shows' promoter.

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd scuffles with witness

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Troubled AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd was detained by police after getting into a scuffle with a witness in his pending court case but was released again without facing further charges. Rudd's lawyer Paul Mabey said Rudd appeared in court Thursday accused of breaching his bail conditions by associating with a witness. Mabey said it was a "chance meeting" and Rudd was released again on bail with no new charges. Last month, police charged the 60-year-old drummer with threatening to kill, which comes with a maximum prison sentence of seven years, as well as possessing methamphetamine and marijuana. He has pleaded not guilty. Columbus Coffee cafe owner Leo Rojas said Thursday that he witnessed Rudd curse and try to punch a larger man on the sidewalk outside the cafe.

Mom questions renting a room to her ex-husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I divorced because of another woman. I took it hard, but after a year or so, I was OK.

Fast forward to 2013: He shows up on my doorstep, needing food and shelter, so I took him in (he's still the father of my children). Now I can't get rid of him!

He's trying to show me he's changed. If I didn't know him, I'd think he wasn't the same man at all. I need to know if this is an OK situation for me to be in, because well-meaning friends and family tell me he won't change; he'll leave again. (I say, "As long as he abides by the terms of the divorce, so what!")

I don't care if he sees other people; he's my EX. As far as I'm concerned, he's just renting a room in my house. But I need to know—am I hurting the kids by letting him stay? He seems to get along better with them now than he ever did, and I'd be renting that room to someone else if it wasn't him. As far as I'm concerned, better the devil you know than the one you don't.

Am I doing the right thing? And if so, how do I get well-meaning people to stop lecturing me?

LANDLADY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LANDLADY: I can't see how your ex living in the house would hurt the children—unless he suddenly disappears from their lives again. His presence there, even as "only a renter," may lessen your chances of finding a serious romance again, because few if any men welcome courting a woman under these circumstances.

However, if you are happy with things just as they are, then when the unwelcome lectures start, all you have to do is tell the well-meaning lecturers that you know what you're doing and to please pipe down. The arrangement you have with your ex may work better for both of you than the marriage did because it appears he is always on his best behavior.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm pregnant with my first baby. I use Facebook to update my family in another country about my pregnancy and the little milestones that have happened. But when I do, my cousin "Rita" takes it upon herself to turn every status I post into something about her and her daughter. I feel like she's trying to one-up me or divert attention away from my child. We come from a big, tight-knit family and until now, her daughter was the baby of the family.

Rita has been doing this for months now, and I'm starting to get annoyed. How can I tell her politely to please stop stealing my thunder and turning everything into something about her?

ANNOYED IN THE WEST

DEAR ANNOYED: Whether she's doing it consciously or not, it does appear that Cousin Rita is competitive with you. It would be interesting to know if she has always been this way.

You can't stop her from competing, but you can develop a sense of humor where she's concerned. Her bids for attention are really rather sad, and once your baby arrives, he or she will be the baby of the family—until Rita becomes pregnant again, that is. (I'm tempted to start the countdown now.)

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

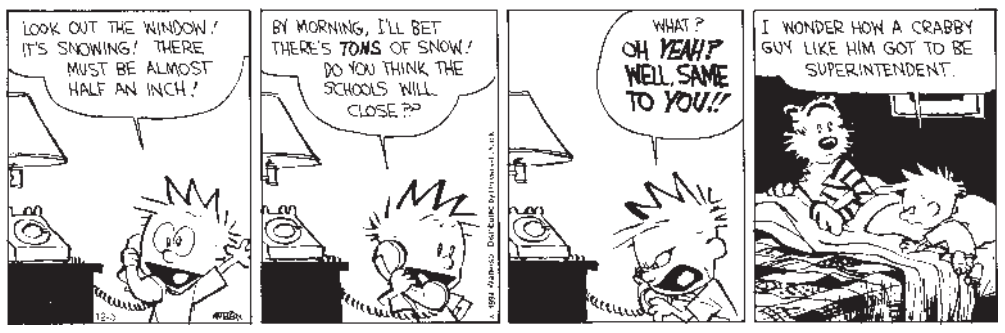
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

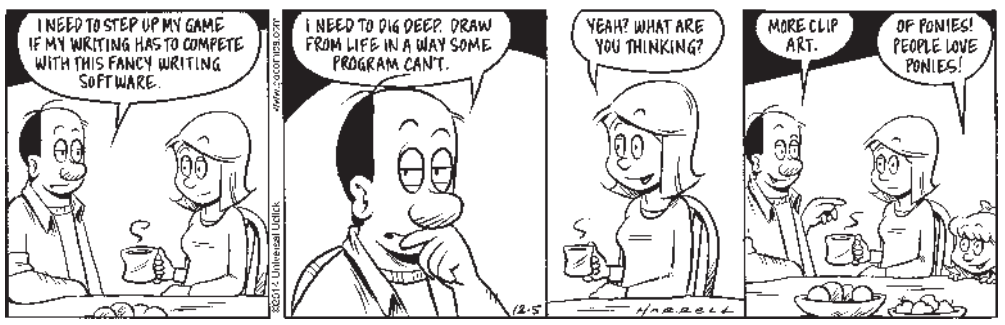

LOOK OUT THE WINDOW! IT'S SNOWING! THERE MUST BE ALMOST HALF AN INCH!
BY MORNING, I'LL BET THERE'S TONS OF SNOW! DO YOU THINK THE SCHOOLS WILL CLOSE??
WHAT? OH YEAH? WELL, SAME TO YOU!!
I WONDER HOW A CRABBY GUY LIKE HIM GOT TO BE SUPERINTENDENT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED TO STEP UP MY GAME IF MY WRITING HAS TO COMPETE WITH THIS FANCY WRITING SOFTWARE.
I NEED TO DIG DEEP. DRAW FROM LIFE IN A WAY SOME PROGRAM CAN'T.
YEAH? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
MORE CLIP ART.
OF PONIES! PEOPLE LOVE PONIES!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YEAH, ENO IS REALLY TAKING HIS NEW DEPARTMENT STORE ELF JOB WAY TOO SERIOUSLY. IT'S CREEPING ME OUT.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?
I'M ENO ON A SHELF.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

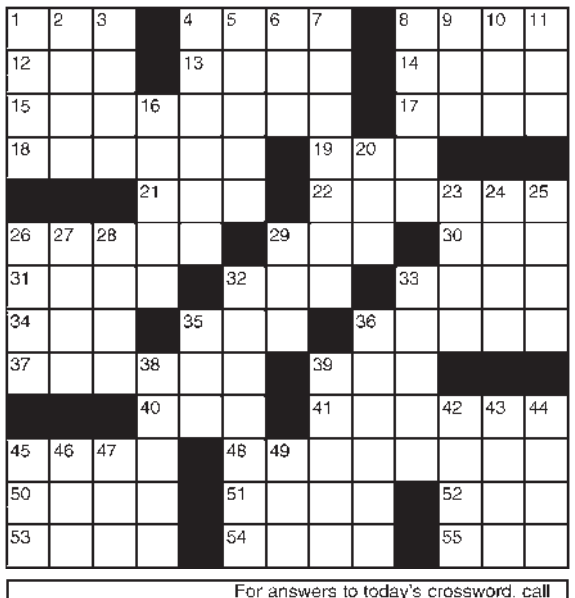
ACROSS
1 Piercing tool
4 Curved molding
8 Actress Jessica
12 Dance syllable?
13 Throw forcefully
14 — ex machina
15 "House" locale
17 Inauguration recitation
18 Boorish sorts
19 Mischievous tyke
21 Put into words
22 Feeling of sympathy
26 Smooth fabric
29 Omega preceder
30 Diamond arbiter
31 Coll. prep exam
32 Adversary
33 Dog bane
34 Have something
35 General Mills offering since 1937
36 Housewarming gift, maybe
37 Salsa scoopers
39 Bikini half
40 Business abbr.
41 Make effervescent
45 Stopper
48 Inn
50 Penetrating wind
51 Fix a text
52 Shemp's brother
53 Harbor structure
54 Hinge (on)
55 Billboards

DOWN
1 "— Breaky Heart"
2 Horse's halter?
3 Cilium
4 Buckeye
5 Courageous
6 Historic time
7 Elongated circle
8 Take as one's own
9 Michele of "Glee"
10 However
11 Blond shade
16 Hypothesize
20 — tai
23 Luau entertainment
24 Portent
25 Lovers' quarrel
26 Bridge
27 One side of the Urals
28 Body powder
29 Plague
32 Spassky opponent
33 Emergency signal
35 "— -Tiki"
36 "I'll get you, my —"
38 Many a backpacker
39 Pesto ingredient
42 Mater lead-in
43 Walked
44 Spud's buds
45 Filch
46 Kimono closer
47 Caviar, basically
49 Piece from Pindar

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	L	O	C	■	B	L	A	B	■	O	B	I
R	E	N	O	■	Y	O	G	I	■	N	O	D
O	N	T	H	E	R	O	A	D	■	T	R	Y
S	T	O	O	G	E	■	■	C	T	H	E	L
■	■	■	S	O	■	K	A	I	I	E	■	■
S	C	O	I	■	P	E	H	■	M	A	I	S
I	O	N	■	■	E	A	T	■	■	I	R	A
M	O	T	H	■	A	N	Y	■	C	R	U	X
■	■	■	H	A	I	K	U	■	H	O	■	■
S	P	E	N	D	■	■	C	U	S	P	I	D
O	L	D	■	O	N	T	H	E	M	E	N	D
D	O	O	■	■	I	E	U	■	O	R	C	A
A	P	T	■	S	P	A	M	■	S	T	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 12-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frankie Muniz, 29; Jessica Pare, 32; Margaret Cho, 46; Little Richard, 82.

Happy Birthday: Face facts and deal with challenges swiftly and efficiently. This is not the time of year to avoid what needs to be taken care of. Once you clear up mishaps, unfinished business and personal matters, you will be able to move into fast-forward mode and re-establish the relationships, pastimes and professional goals you want to strive to improve. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 27, 34, 39, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will pick up information quickly and can selectively choose topics that will help you reach your professional goals. Insight into helping those who don't have a voice will be your calling. Your appeal is amplified and romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Problems will not go away unless you deal with whatever is bothering you before your temper has a chance to grow. Dealing with matters diplomatically will bring much better results. Don't let your work suffer because you are fretting. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be afraid to change your direction. As long as you get the results you are looking for, the path you take won't matter. Changes at home will improve your personal life and motivate you to make a positive relationship choice. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for the obvious. Don't trust anyone with your secrets or your intentions. Don't make a fuss, just take care of your responsibilities and get some rest. Quiet time will help you reassess your position and your competition. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can make a difference if you put your efforts into something you believe in or care about. Social events will allow you to drum up followers who support your cause. Don't slow down when you should be speeding up. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Tread carefully when dealing with domestic matters. Not everyone will agree with your plans. You will have to use persuasive tactics if you want to reach your personal goals. Deception and disillusionment must not be disregarded. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make plans for the weekend. A short trip, a little shopping or assisting in a good cause will put you in a good mood. Satisfaction will come from knowing you have fulfilled something of meaning. Romance is on the horizon. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Follow the road less traveled, but be particularly careful when it comes to your money, possessions or dealing with people from your past. Cover your back by taking care of your responsibilities before you opt to follow a personal path. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Temptation is the enemy. You can have fun without being indulgent. Be true to yourself as well as to the ones you love. Positive changes will add to your comfort, convenience and your emotional well-being. Plan a surprise for someone special. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful whom you share secrets with. Focus on money matters and look for tax write-offs and investments that will keep your money working for you. Don't expect everyone to be on your team. Avoid unpredictable people. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of matters that concern elderly relatives or friends. Your help will be appreciated and rewarded. Positive changes at home will bring you closer to your personal goals. Prepare to have visitors. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Jealousy will surface if you feel threatened by someone interfering in your work or home life. Refuse to let anyone know how you feel and you will find a way to outmaneuver any opponent you encounter. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, enthusiastic and innovative. You are sensitive and dedicated.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				4
5			6		4			
		9		2				
	7		9	3		2	4	
	8						5	
	9	4		8	1		7	
				9		3		
			2		7			1
6				5				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	3	4	2	8	1	9	5
5	2	8	1	9	6	4	7	3
4	1	9	3	5	7	6	8	2
2	9	4	6	7	1	3	5	8
1	5	7	2	8	3	9	4	6
8	3	6	9	4	5	2	1	7
3	4	5	7	1	2	8	6	9
9	8	2	5	6	4	7	3	1
7	6	1	8	3	9	5	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RUTABAGA VS. TURNIPS **Solution: 8 letters**

Y	C	O	O	K	I	N	G	W	E	T	S	O	U	P
P	D	Ⓓ	C	R	O	P	E	W	T	L	W	A	R	M
G	U	Ⓔ	G	N	A	R	O	G	A	U	E	U	L	B
R	N	Ⓡ	M	N	M	L	N	I	P	T	D	P	R	O
I	H	P	E	E	L	I	N	A	R	E	I	U	I	I
L	A	N	T	E	R	N	S	M	O	I	S	R	B	L
L	M	S	Y	P	E	E	A	E	O	N	H	P	O	T
E	U	S	S	I	E	S	G	P	T	P	C	L	F	L
D	I	N	B	D	H	G	F	O	L	A	T	E	L	A
E	S	I	S	E	A	Y	B	A	B	A	C	N	A	S
T	S	M	D	B	S	C	T	B	P	I	N	B	V	L
S	A	A	A	T	P	E	A	A	U	E	A	T	I	I
A	T	T	L	A	E	G	R	J	E	K	Z	I	N	C
O	O	I	A	L	E	A	F	R	E	W	O	L	F	E
R	P	V	S	F	N	Y	G	R	E	N	E	E	R	D

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Baby, Bake, Biennial, Blue, Boil, Cabbage, Cooking, Crop, Energy, Flat, Flower, Folate, Green, Grilled, Juice, Lanterns, Leaf, Lutein, Mashed, Neck, Neeps, Orange, Peel, Plant, Plate, Potassium, Puree, Purple, Rapa, Red, Remedy, Riboflavin, Roasted, Rotabagge, Salad, Salt, Seeds, Sliced, Soup, Spring, Stem, Stew, Swedish, Taproot, Vitamins, Warm, Yellow, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Saskatonians

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Open Date	: Dec 05, 2014
Close Date	: Dec 12, 2014
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Qualification	: AA Degree or College Graduate (4) yrs experience

Link:http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to saipan@aiconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing date: December 11, 2014.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2015

Opening date: November 17, 2014 Closing date: December 5, 2014

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
(1) Executive/Board Secretary

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2014.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

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Sixers snap 0-17 start with win over Wolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers were 16 seconds into their game against the Minnesota Timberwolves and Henry Sims was stepping to the free throw line when referee Zach Zarba blew his whistle and stopped the game.

Turns out the Sixers were going in the wrong direction, just like they have been all season long. The foul was wiped away, the teams switched sides and the game was restarted and the Sixers got pointed the right way.

The 76ers avoided tying the record for the worst start to a season in NBA history, ending their 0-17 skid with an 85-77 victory over the Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

A loss to the Timberwolves would have tied the 2009-10 New Jersey Nets for the worst start to a season in league history at 0-18. Many of these Sixers, including point guard Michael Carter-Williams and coach Brett Brown, were part of the team that lost 26 straight games last season, which tied the record for consecutive losses.

One-and-17 never felt so good.

"For me personally, I think it's a big relief off my chest," Carter-Williams said. "And the same is for the rest of the guys now that we got a win."

Particularly the first one for a team with the youngest roster in league history.

"'We feel like this validates the work they've put in," Brown said. "I just have a tremendous amount of respect for the fact that they never once quit on themselves, short-circuited a practice, and they were rewarded tonight."

Carter-Williams had 20 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and Robert Covington added 17 points in a game between two of the worst teams in the league.

The Sixers shot just 39 percent against the poorest defense in the NBA, turned the ball over 19 times and scored only nine points in the second quarter.

Gorgui Dieng had 15 points and 16 rebounds for the Timberwolves. But Minnesota shot just 35.7 percent and turned the ball over 19 times to lose for the 11th time in 13 games.

"That's what makes it bad," Wolves forward Corey Brewer said. "They play that bad and we still lose? We have to look at ourselves, man. It's tough. We can't lose that game, period."

The Sixers were missing leading scorer Tony Wroten and backup point guard Alexey Shved (hip), leaving them with one healthy point guard.

But the Timberwolves were ripe for the taking without injured starters Ricky Rubio, Kevin Martin and Nikola Pekovic and playing their fourth game in six nights.

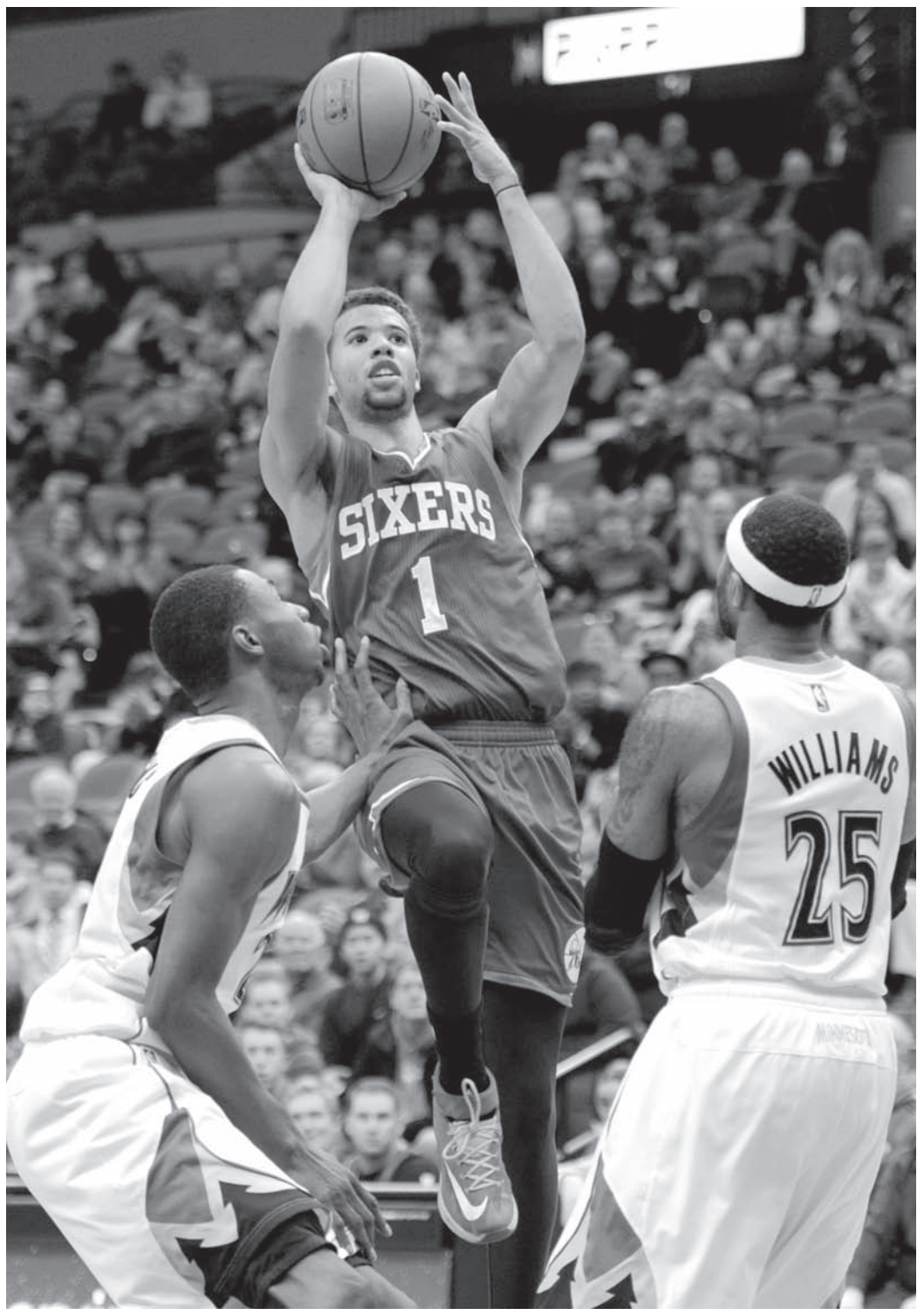
The teams combined for 66 points, 55 missed shots and 25 turnovers in the first two quarters. The Sixers led by 10 points after the first quarter—their first double-digit, first-quarter lead of the season—and 12 in the second quarter before the Wolves got going.

They closed the period on a 13-1 run to take a 34-32 lead into the break, but both teams spent most of the night clanking shots, fumbling passes and squandering opportunities.

Carter-Williams hit 9 of 20 shots and Covington, a call-up from the D-League, hit two big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to give the Sixers a 69-64 lead.

Mo Williams capped an 11-2 spurt with a 3-pointer that gave the Wolves a 75-73 lead with 2:18 to play. But K.J. McDaniels, who air-balled his first two 3-pointers of the night, came right back with a 3 of his own and Covington's third 3 of the quarter with 1:15 left sealed it.

"Congrats lil homies," Sixers great Allen Iverson tweeted. "Keep fighting and stay strong."



AP

Philadelphia 76ers guard Michael Carter-Williams (1) shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves forward Andrew Wiggins and guard Mo Williams (25) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, in Minneapolis. The 76ers won, 85-77.

Nets 95, Spurs 93, OT

In New York, Gregg Popovich couldn't stomach what he was seeing from his starters, particularly Tony Parker.

He could've used an effort like the Brooklyn Nets got from Mirza Teletovic.

Teletovic had a season-high 26 points and a career-best 15 rebounds starting in place of Kevin Garnett, and the Nets snapped the San Antonio Spurs' eight-game winning streak with a 95-93 overtime victory Wednesday night.

The Nets regrouped in overtime after blowing a 14-point lead in the final 5 minutes of regulation, but Popovich felt the game was lost long before then because of poor play from his first unit.

"They were very sloppy. They didn't compete as hard as the Nets did, for more of the 48," the Spurs coach said. "The Nets wanted the game more than our starters did, I think. They might not agree with me, but I don't really care, because I'm right."

Parker, who sat out Monday's victory at Philadelphia with a rib injury, played only 2 1/2 minutes after the third quarter, though Popovich said the former NBA Finals MVP didn't aggravate the injury.

Nets coach Lionel Hollins couldn't complain about Teletovic, who had missed eight of 10 shots in his last two games. The message from his coach when told he would start?

"He told me, 'Zip your head back together and start playing,'" Teletovic said.

Danny Green had 20 points, 10 rebounds and the tying 3-pointer with 2.4 seconds left in regulation for San Antonio, which had little going most of the night and trailed 82-68 with 5 minutes left in regulation. A 15-2 burst gave the Spurs a chance, and they eventually tied it at 88 on Green's 3-pointer.

Deron Williams made a 3-pointer for the first basket of overtime and the Nets led the remainder of the extra period, holding on when Manu Ginobili missed a potential go-ahead 3-pointer with 4.9 seconds left.

Tim Duncan had 14 points and 17 rebounds, but shot 5 for 18. Kawhi Leonard was 4 of 16, and Boris Diaw missed all six shots.

"It's a shame," Ginobili said. "The truth is that we played bad for a big stretch of the game. We gathered ourselves and had until the last shot to win the game."

The Spurs looked agitated most of the night, with the way they played and even the way they strategized. Popovich appeared to drop his clipboard to the court in disgust between the third and fourth quarters after one of his assistants was trying to draw up something.

Garnett took the night off after playing 29 minutes Tuesday in a victory at New York. This could've been the last meeting ever between he and Duncan, the two 38-year-old veterans who are both in the final year of their contracts.

The Spurs hit some holiday season traffic coming from their hotel in Manhattan and didn't get to their locker room until less than 90 minutes before the start. That might've contributed to their sluggish early play, though they overcame it to lead 42-40 at halftime.

The Nets opened the third quarter with a 22-5 spurt to surge to a 62-47 lead. San Antonio managed just one basket, a 3-pointer from Parker, for about 8 1/2 minutes to start the half

Bulls 102, Hornets 95

In Charlotte, Pau Gasol had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Joakim Noah and Nikola Mirotic each posted double-doubles, and the Chicago Bulls sent the Charlotte Hornets to their 10th straight loss.

Noah had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Mirotic added 11 points and 12 rebounds as the Bulls bounced back from a double- overtime loss to Dallas on Tuesday night.

It was the fifth straight game the Bulls have scored at least 100 points.

Kemba Walker had 23 points and Lance Stephenson had a season-high 20 for the Hornets, who have lost 12 of 13.

Celtics 109, Pistons 102, OT

In Boston, Jeff Green scored 32 points, including a 3-pointer as Boston opened overtime with eight straight points, and the Celtics snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the Detroit Pistons.

The loss was the 10th in a row for Detroit. Greg Monroe scored 15 of his 29 points after the 3:13 mark of the fourth, when the Pistons erased an 11-point deficit. But Detroit never recovered after giving up the first three baskets—including a pair of 3-pointers—to start the extra period.

Raptors 123, Jazz 104

In Salt Lake City, Kyle Lowry scored a season-high 39 points on 13-of-22 shooting as the Toronto Raptors sent the Utah Jazz to their seventh straight loss.

Greivis Vasquez and Lou Williams each had 17 for the Raptors.

Derrick Favors and Enes Kanter scored 19 points apiece for Utah. Gordon Hayward added 16 points and Trey Burke had 15 and eight assists for the Jazz, who trailed through the final three quarters.

Rockets 105, Grizzlies 96

In Houston, James Harden scored 21 points, and Trevor Ariza and Jason Terry added 16 each to help the short-handed Houston Rockets cruise past Memphis.

The Grizzlies had won five in a row, and their two previous losses this season had been by a combined five points.

Memphis jumped out to an 8-0 lead in this one but couldn't do much after that. Houston didn't trail after the first quarter.

Houston played without three starters, including Dwight Howard, who missed his seventh straight game with a strained right knee.

Mavericks 107, Bucks 105

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis hit a wild, fall-away jumper at the buzzer, lifting the Dallas Mavericks over the Milwaukee Bucks.

A night after Ellis scored 38 points in a double-overtime win at Chicago, he got 23. He had eight in the last two minutes.

The Mavericks won their fifth in a row while resting Dirk Nowitzki because of a sore back. Coach Rick Carlisle called it a "precautionary" move.

Tyson Chandler scored 18 points and added 20 rebounds for the Mavericks.

Brandon Knight scored 25 points and Khris Middleton added 21 for the Bucks in their third straight loss.

Hawks 112, Heat 102

In Miami, Jeff Teague scored 27 points, Kyle Korver scored 18 and the Atlanta Hawks handed the Miami Heat another home loss.

Dennis Schroder scored 16 and Paul Millsap finished with 14 for the Hawks, who beat the Heat for the second time in two meetings this season. Atlanta has won four straight and six of seven.

Dwyane Wade scored 28 points and Chris Bosh finished with 27 points and 11 rebounds for Miami, which has lost six of its last eight home games.

Wizards 111, Lakers 95

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 27 points, John Wall had 17 points and 15 assists, and the Washington Wizards beat Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Wizards won their third straight and prevented the Lakers from getting their first three-game winning streak in more than a year.

Bryant finished with 29 points—15 points of them in the first quarter when he shot 6 for 11. He missed nine of his final 11 shots.

Braves agree to 4-year deal with Markakis

ATLANTA (AP)—Moving to fill an outfield void after the trade of Jason Heyward, the Atlanta Braves agreed Wednesday to a four-year contract with free agent Nick Markakis.

The 31-year-old Markakis spent the first nine years of his career with the Baltimore Orioles. This past season, he batted .276 with 14 homers and 50 RBIs while winning his second Gold Glove.

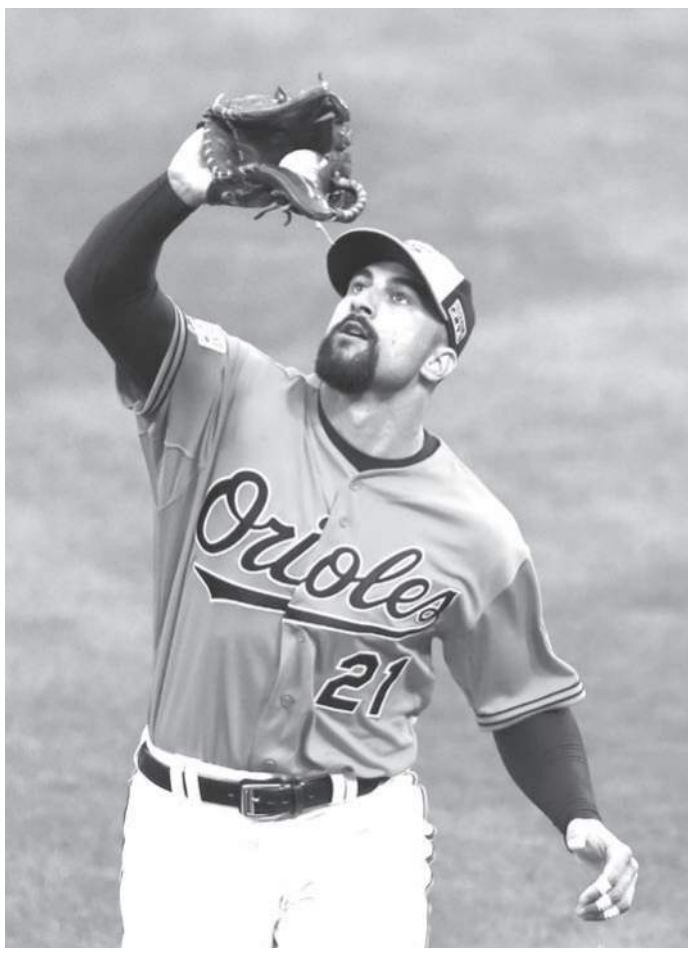
The deal is contingent on Markakis passing a physical. Terms were not announced by the team, but multiple reports indicated it was worth $44 million.

Heyward was dealt to the St. Louis Cardinals last month in a four-player deal that brought pitcher Shelby Miller to the Braves.

It was the first major trade by new general manager John Hart, who said the team was unlikely to sign Heyward to a long-term contract and didn't want to risk losing him as a free agent after the 2015 season.

The signing of Markakis is likely to intensify trade interest in two other Atlanta sluggers: Justin Upton and Evan Gattis.

Upton, who led the Braves with 29 homers and 102 RBIs, also is entering the final year of his contract and would surely bring back even more in a trade than Heyward.



AP

Free agent Nick Markakis agreed to a four-year contract with the Atlanta Braves Wednesday.

Gattis has primarily played catcher with the Braves, but top prospect Christian Bethancourt is set to take over behind the plate next season. If Gattis stays in Atlanta, he would move to left field to keep a much-needed bat in the lineup, though he has major limitations defensively, making him a much better fit for an AL team that could use him as a designated hitter.

Markakis became the second key player to leave the AL East champion Orioles this week. All-Star slugger Nelson Cruz, who led the majors with 40 home runs last season, agreed to a deal with the Seattle Mariners.

"You don't want my opinion!!!!!!!!"Baltimore center fielder Adam Jones tweeted Wednesday.

Markakis, who played his high school ball in suburban Woodstock, Georgia, has been a reliable contributor for the Orioles, though his offense steadily tailed off after a career-high 23 homers with 112 RBIs in 2007. He has played at least 155 games in seven of his nine seasons, with a career average of .290. He also won a Gold Glove in 2011 and provides a solid defensive replacement in right field for the Gold Glove-winning Heyward.

Markakis has not made an error in the outfield since Aug. 11, 2012, a stretch of 328 games. He was just eight games shy of the AL record, though he still has a shot at the major league record of 392 consecutive error-free games set by Darren Lewis from 1990-94.

Woods brings a buzz back to golf

WINDERMERE, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods didn't even have a club in his hand when he passed an important test Wednesday at Isleworth.

After hitting a fairway metal off the 10th tee, Woods gingerly stepped through a flower bed and then hopped down a 4-foot wall and trotted to the clubhouse to use the bathroom. It was that kind of leap —from a bunker at Firestone —that jarred back muscles and ultimately forced yet another injury-induced layoff.

His golf Wednesday wasn't too bad, either.

Woods swung freely and easily during the pro-am at the Hero World Challenge, his first time walking 18 holes since he missed the cut Aug. 9 at the PGA Championship.

"It felt good to be out there," Woods said. "I took that much time off right after the PGA and built up my body and made a few adjustments on my swing and hit some good shots today."

The real test is Thursday in the first round of an unofficial event with 18 elite players from the top 50 in the world, and one big buzz because of the tournament host.

Woods has slipped to No. 24 in the world. He never lost his ranking as golf's biggest draw.

"I think if he starts swinging it better and starts feeling good about what he's doing again, it won't take long for him to be at the top of the game again," Steve Stricker said.

This is the fifth time in five years Woods has returned from an injury, and the second time this year. He came back too early from back surgery in June and missed two cuts in the three events he played.

Health no longer seems to be the issue. The biggest question is the swing.

Woods parted with swing coach Sean Foley and has brought on Chris Como, who walked the pro-am with him and occasionally chatted with him in the fairway. Woods said he looked at tape dating all the way back to his amateur days and described his goal for a new swing as ''new, but old.''

Stricker saw him briefly on the practice range earlier in the week and felt as though he was looking back in time.

"Looks a lot similar to early 2000s to me, from the side when I was watching," Stricker said.

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Floyd vs Manny mega-fight could take place in Dubai

BOXING

Floyd Mayweather's potential mega-fight with Manny Pacquiao could take place in the Middle East.

Reports have claimed that a group of investors in the United Arab Emirates have put around £70million up to help facilitate hosting the fight in Dubai.

After years of posturing, it seems that the super-fight could be edging closer with May 2015 being the target date for the two superstars of boxing to finally get in the ring together.

Mayweather's hometown of Las Vegas is one of the favourites to host the fight, but Pacquiao's last fight against Chris Algieri was held in the Chinese city of Macau and that could also be another option for the fight.

But Dubai has emerged as a potential third host for the fight. The Middle East has never hosted anything of this size in the past and the time difference between Dubai and America would have to be factored in.

Muhammad Ali and George Foreman famously fought in Zaire 40 years ago and Hasim Rahman beat Lennox Lewis in South Africa in 2001. But rarely do mega-fights such as this happen outside America.

But that has not stopped the Middle East group talking up their chances of hosting the fight.

Spokesman for the group, M Akbar Muhammad told boxingscene.com: "The funding is in place, and because of this and the group's unique and distinctive make-up and backgrounds, it has emerged as the leading and most serious group striving to secure the bout. I've been instructed by the group to do whatever it takes to bring this long-awaited and eagerly-anticipated fight to fruition."

"There's absolutely no doubt that each fighter, individually, will receive more money than any other boxer has in the past. The combined purses are approaching $200million (£127m). And, rest assured, we have the resources to do just that. We want to be a part of Mr Mayweather's historic march to 50-0, no matter where the fights may take place," Muhammad said.

Since his win at the end of last month over Algieri, Pac-Man has been keen to talk up the prospect of a fight with Mayweather.

Pacquiao took to Instagram to say: 'Stop throwing punches on Instagram and let's get in the ring!

Mayweather

Pacquiao

SBL organizational meeting today

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifo is reminding all managers and coaches of participating teams in the upcoming season to attend today's organizational meeting at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Rogolifoi said issues like the ground rules and other technical matters will be discussed. He also reminded all teams to secure their respective sponsors and at the same time prepare the payment for the $1,000 entrance fee. Rogolifoi requested teams to complete their 25-member roster before submitting their final line-up and they should start ordering their uniforms.

Waiver forms are already available at the NMSA office inside the Ada gym. The forms will also be distributed during the meeting.

The Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field is ready to host the games after undergoing renovation, thanks to funds donated by various generous contributors.

The new season is tentatively set to open on Jan. 12.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 234-6672. ***(Jon Perez)***

VILLACRUSIS

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seconds and will be joined by Russia's Kirill Prigoda (56.93 seconds), Japan's Yasuhiro Koseki (57.06), Slovenia's Damir Dugonjic (57.09), Brazil's Felipe Franca Silva (57.21), France's Giacomo Perez-Dortona (57.24), and the U.S.' Cody Miller (57.28).

Meanwhile, the two other CNMI participants—Victoria Chentsova and Takumi Sugie—in the five-day competition had their first events yesterday.

Chentsova, who was the Commonwealth's flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the event last Wednesday night, was scheduled to join the qualifying race in the 800 freestyle qualifying swim at 12:48pm (7:48pm Saipan time) yesterday. She was on Heat 1 and listed her qualifying time at 10:11.26.

Chentsova was set to race against Myanmar's Khant Khant Su San (9:51.10), Moldova's Ana Semkruncic (9:38.56), Faroe Islands' Cecilia Eysturdal (9:05.08), Barbados' Lani Cabrera (9:01.10), El Salvador's Rebeca Quinteros (8:59.36), Peru's Erika Naranjo Garcia (9:01.08), Turkey's Tuana Ayca Bahtoglu (9:01.33), India's Malavika Vishwanath (9:24.45), and Vietnam's Anh Vien Thi Nguyen (9:45.00).

Sugie had an earlier race than Chentsova with his qualifying swim in the 50m freestyle slated yesterday at 10:59am (5:59pm Saipan). Sugie swam on Heat 2 and had a qualifying time of 27.88 seconds. He held the second fastest qualifying time with the best mark belonging to Palau's Shawn Wallace Dingilius (27.58 seconds).

Joining Sugie and Dingilius on Heat 2 were Congo's Jynior Ndinga (29.24 seconds), Ethiopia's Robel Kiros Habte (29.08), Tonga's Tongli Panuve (28.46), Burundi's Idriss Mutankabandi (28:00), Nepal's Miraj Prajapati (28.19), Central African Republic's Shad Perriere (28.59), and Yemen's Sami Al-Sayaghi (29.10) and Yousef Al-Behmi (29.30).

After the 50m freestyle event, Sugie along with Villacrusis will conclude their campaign in Doha this Saturday when they compete in the 100m freestyle race. Chentsova, on the other hand, will have her second and last event—400m freestyle—today.

CBC

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over Taga in its first game then clinched 16 of the 30 points up for grabs against Golden Racquets last weekend.

Shirley's, meanwhile, opened with a 13-17 decision against the four-peat seeking SBC and then pummeled Taga, 23-7, for its 36-point tally. Taga, which was in second place during the opening week, dropped to a tie for fourth and fifth with Golden Racquets with 31 points each.

Three points are awarded to a team that wins a match in two games, while 2 points are given to the winning squad and one to its opponent if the match goes to three.

Matches on Friday will be in the men's B, BC, A, and women's B and A divisions, while on Saturday it will be the turn of men's AB, C, and mixed BC, B and AB players.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, matches will be in the men's BC, AB and B, and mixed AB and C.

SAIPAN SWIM CLUB
The CNMI delegates to the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) pose with Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich after the opening ceremony last Wednesday night at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha, Qatar.

SONICS

From Page 32

De Guzman and shooting guard Sean Rabasto combined for 15 points for Sonics, as they outgunned the entire KFC in the first canto.

In the second quarter, the Sonics pulled away further as Montes gone cold and KFC converted only two baskets and had only 10 points. Only Jethro Cruz nailed a field goal for KFC, while the Sonics continued to get contributions from their starters and bench players to erect a 37-21 halftime advantage.

KFC never made headway in the second half to kiss their finals bid goodbye, while the Sonics advanced to the semis and will play the winner of the Kagman Sparks-Runnin' Rebels tiff in the first Final Four match on Dec. 11 at 5:30pm.

The Sparks and Runnin' Rebels will collide for the third semis ticket this Monday at 1pm, while the G-Rollers and Dream Team will battle for the last Final Four berth at 3pm. The Ol'Aces and last playoff qualifier Laly 4 were squaring off for the second semis seat last night and results of their game were unavailable at press time.

The last two teams left standing in the single-elimination playoffs will duke it out for the U21 championship next Saturday at 3pm.

Meanwhile, the playoff round in the U18 division started last night with KFC facing Dough Boys. The division also has a single-elimination format in the playoffs. Other first round pairings are San Jose Ol'Aces vs Rollers B (Dec. 5); Chalan Kanoa Saints vs Ol'Aces (Dec. 8)l and DYS vs G-Rollers (Dec. 8). Semis matches are set for Dec. 9, while the finals is slated for Dec. 13 at 11:30am.

Sonics 79–De Guzman 15, Fidelino 12, Rabasto 11, Espinosa 10, Flores 9, J.P. Villanueva 7, Feria 2, Alegre 2.

KFC 49–Montes 12, Cruz 9, Deocares 6, Pamintuan 4, Gunnacao 3, Cristobal 3, Ogasawara 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-11, 37-21, 49-29, 79-49.

THUNDER

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combining for 180 yards but the Thunder's running game was held by the Lightning defense to a total of 73 rushing yards.

Bundoc and Siech were also the bright spots for the Thunder as they combined for 136 receiving yards compared to the 34 of the defending champs' Kimo Angailen and Ryuta Onuki.

The Lightning held its ground and thwarted the Thunder's passing and running game to seal the win.

Tkel scored two more TDs, while Ada had one for the Lightning in the second half.

CHC

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Marilla 2.

Customs 65–Galarse 21, Fitial 17, Lizama 6, Lus. Reyes 6, Teregeyo 6, Lui. Reyes 5, Cepeda 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 35-22, 54-52, 68-65.

Second Game

NMSA 72–Basa 21, P. Camacho 19, Caro 13, Rangamar 6, Babauta 4, Sablan 3, Fitial 2, Iginoef 2, Olopai 2.

CUC 58–Diaz 16, Lieto 11, Santos 10, Mizutani 6, Madracheluib 4, Masga 4, Simada 3, Benavente 2, Poquiz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-12, 31-17, 48-35, 72-58.

CHC, NMSA open playoffs with wins

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Center and Northern Marianas Sports Association opened the playoff round of the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government Basketball League with contrasting wins last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CHC almost squandered a 13-point halftime lead but made the necessary stops in the final moments of the game to beat Customs, 68-65, while NMSA held Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to a season-low 5 points in the second period in coasting to a 72-58 win in the second game.

CHC erected a 35-22 lead at the turn, but allowed Customs to slowly chip away the deficit, and even gave its opponent the chance to take a 61-54 edge with six minutes left in the final quarter.

A 10-1 exchange, behind Ray Culala's back-to-back jumpers, had CHC regaining the lead at 64-62 with 2:56 left in the game clock.

The opposing teams then traded missed shots and turnovers after that with Adrian Flores breaking the drought with a strong drive underneath to push CHC's lead to 66-62 with the time down to 2:09.

A Luizi Reyes putback off a John Sablan miss at the other end moved Customs within 2, with 1:55 left.

However, Flores answered quickly to seal CHC's victory as Anthony Rajo's presence forced Customs to change its shots underneath.

Jason Bahillo paced CHC with 18 points, 6 rebounds and 3 steals, while Culala added 12 markers and Flores scored 10, grabbed 12 boards, and had 3 assists.

JON PEREZ

The Commonwealth Health Center's Sam Fernandez, left, attempts to dribble past the defense of Customs' John Sablan during their playoff game in the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Leo Galarse led Customs' losing cause with 21 points and 6 rebounds, while Kelvin Fitial contributed 17 markers and 5 caroms.

CHC had more assists, 10-4, and enjoyed a huge 44-26 advantage in rebounds. Customs failed to capitalize on its 11 steals.

In the second game, Preston Basa buried four of his seven 3-pointers in the second period to help NMSA pull away from a 14-12 tally in the opening canto. NMSA outscored CUC in the second quarter, 17-5, to end the half with a 31-17 advantage. NMSA was hardly threatened after that to cruise to victory.

Basa finished with a game-high 21 points, while Peter Camacho and Ezra Caro contributed 19 and 13 markers, respectively.

Tony Diaz led CUC with 16 points, while Robert Lieto added 11 and John Santos ended up with 10

First Game

CHC 68–Bahillo 18, Culala 12, Flores 10, B. Ajoste 7, Nunag 7, O. Ajoste 6, Rajo 6,

See CHC on Page 30

Thunder aims to bounce back against Saints

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Southern Thunder aims to bounce back from its opening game loss to the Eastern Lightning when it takes on the Northern Saints in the continuation of the Commonwealth Football League Association's 2014 Youth Football League season tomorrow.

Game time is at 1pm at the CPA Airport Field with the Thunder hoping to put that defeat behind against last year's finalists.

Southern dropped a 40-20 opening day decision against the Eastern Lightning last Saturday with the defending champions using their ground game behind Zander Tkel and quarterback Donavin Ada to top the former.

Tkel and Ada combined for five rushing touchdowns, completing 360 of the Lightning's 456 total yards.

Despite the loss, the Thunder still showed good signs that it could be a title contender this season.

The Thunder even threatened to come back from an early double-digit spread as a Jeffrey Agulto fumble recovery resulted to a Matthew Reyes touchdown and moved the team within five, 19-14, in the opening minutes of the third period.

N-Nes Siech scored the Thunder's first TD off a Norman Cabrera 33-yard pass, while Franko Bundoc made the 2-point conversion.

Cabrera, Brent Azaren and Jaret Rosario completed 3 passes each for Southern,

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JON PEREZ

The Southern Thunder's Matthew Reyes, second left, tries to get past the Eastern Lightning's defense during the opening game in the Commonwealth Football League Association's 2014 Youth Football League last week.

Interesting field in Open singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The second and final week of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic will start tomorrow with an interesting field in the co-ed Open singles event.

Last year's men's Open singles champion Luke Beling headlines the draw and will be joined by the veteran Bobby Cruz, female players Negahr Rastguiy and Mikayla Lopez, and young guns Michael Ren, Tommy Choi, Luther Lizama, and Moris Villanueva.

Beling will have his first game against Rastguiy this Friday at 5pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court, while Choi and Ren will play in the same venue at 6:30pm. Over at the Pacific Islands Club, Cruz will face Lopez at 6:30pm tomorrow, while at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court, Lizama will take on Villanueva at 5pm.

Four other singles events will be featured in Week 2 of the annual competition. In the men's 4.0 singles, there are four entries in Steven Goodwin, Vincent Tudela, Robbie Schorr, and Isagani Cortez. They will play in a round-robin format.

In the men's 40-and-above singles, the six participants will play in a regular draw with Top 2 seeds Raj Rai and Gary Ramsey drawing byes in the first round. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Chang Whan Jang, Bob Webb, and Steve Jang are the other players in the draw with the first two colliding this Friday at PIC at 5pm and the last having their match at Hyatt at 8pm.

In the women's 4.0 singles, only three players are competing for the championship. The short list includes Julia Ishikawa, Malika Miyawaki, and Tania Tan.

Besides the adults singles, this weekend's competition will also have the women's and men's doubles and mixed doubles.

In the men's Open doubles, Beling will partner with Peter Loken and they will duel Jeff Race and Don Dunlop in the semifinals this Saturday. The other semis pairing will have Ren and Lizama battling Villanueva and Choi.

In the men's doubles 3.0, six pairs are contesting for the crown, while the over 40 division will have seven teams, including the Lai brothers from Guam—Sam, George, and David. Seven pairs are also entered in the men's doubles 4.0 with Ken Imaya and Diony Castillo drawing a bye in the first round. The top seeds will battle the division crown against the tandems of Tudela and Goodwin, Schorr and J.R. Jacinto, Bong Gamab and Bob Sergio, Colin Ramsey and Sean Lee, and Dylan Ackerman and Seiya Eda.

In the women's doubles, which has a round-robin format, three teams are fighting for the championship—Vickie Izuka and Mayling Colombo, Caitlin Tinney and Norma Ada, Maaya and C. Sato.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tommy Choi, seen here serving to Moris Villanueva in Week 1 of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, will be playing in the co-ed Open singles event starting tomorrow.

Sixers snap 0-17 start with win over Wolves

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Sports

Thunder aims to bounce back against Saints

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Christian Villacrusis, seen here competing in the 100m breaststroke swim in last month's All Schools Meet, joined the same event in the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) last Wednesday night at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha, Qatar.

Villacrusis beats q'fying time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Christian Villacrusis gave the CNMI a good start in the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) after surpassing his qualifying time in the 100m breaststroke race last Wednesday at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha, Qatar.

Villacrusis completed the four-lap swim in 1:18.93, beating his qualifying time (1:22.35) listed on the event's start list. The 14-year-old swimmer placed fourth on Heat 1, joining eight other participants in one of the qualifying races in the event. He was the youngest swimmer in his heat, sharing the distinction with Guam's Tanner Poppe.

Villacrusis finished ahead of Poppe, who timed in at 1:24.49, and two other swimmers—Seychells' Payet Justin (1:19.97) and Benin's Awoussou Hodadje Ablam (1:26.91)—in his heat. Botswana's Kitso Matija won the heat with his 1:08.65, followed by the Federate State of Micronesia's Dionisio Augustine (1:13.11), Uganda's Elisha Tibatemwa (1:13.22), VIllacrusis, Payet, Poppe, and Ablam.

Great Britain's Adam Peaty posted the fastest qualifying time in the 100m breaststroke event after submitting 57.02 seconds, but failed to eclipse the world (55.61 seconds) and championship (56.80 seconds) records Cameron Van Der Burgh of South Africa holds. Adam later broke the championship record as he timed in at 56.43 seconds in the semifinals to lead seven other finalists. Van Der Burgh also made it to the finals with his 57.18

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CBC, Shirley's try to catch up with SBC

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community Badminton Club and Shirley's Badminton Club try to get closer with leader Saipan Badminton Club when action in the 8th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament resumes today at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

CBC will face three-time defending titlist SBC on Friday and Saturday and will challenge Shirley's in the first day of their matchup on Sunday. Shirley's, on the other hand, will take on Golden Racquets before ending its campaign against CBC the following week. Taga drew a bye and will face SBC next week.

CBC and Shirley's are currently at second and third places with 37 and 36 points, respectively, in the five-team field behind the three-time defending titlist SBC's 45 markers.

CBC scored a 21-9 win

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JON PEREZ
Shirley's Badminton Club's Cris Hilario prepares to make a return in his and Annette Ta's mixed doubles BB match against Taga Badminton Club's Celso Agui and Cristy Villaflor in the 8th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex. Hilario and Ta defeated Agui and Villaflor, 21-18, 16-21, 21-7.

Sonics march into semifinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Sonics clinched the first semis berth in the U21 division of BANMI Youth League, following a 79-49 demolition of Kentucky Fried Chicken at the start of the playoff round last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics, who finished the round-robin regular season with an eight-game winning streak after dropping the opener to top finisher Ol'Aces to gain the second seeding in the playoffs, gave KFC no room for an upset, dominating the match from start to finish.

A 25-11 scoring in the first quarter was all the Sonics needed to take control of the game, as the more seasoned and deeper bench of coach Jesse Tudela proved too much to handle for the young crew of KFC coach Jun Alipio.

Four Sonics scored more than one basket in their strong start, while only Tristan Montes hit multiple shots for KFC, drilling 6 points. Wingman Jaymark

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' J.P. Villanueva challenges the defense of Kentucky Fried Chicken's Jethro Cruz during their regular season game in the U21 division of the BANMI youth caging last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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